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Equality

GOING POSTAL

The husband of US Senator Dianne Feinstein has been selling post offices to his friends, cheap.

By Peter Byrne

PAGE 7 - Oakland to Spend $1.5 Million to Help Influential Contractor The city is assisting parking contractor Bill Aboudi despite the fact that a judge said he owes his employees $1 million in back wages. **PAGE 36 - Lotta Heaven, Lotta Hell** Virtuoso guitarist Jason Becker was supposed to be a star. Then the unthinkable happened. **PAGE 38 - An Oakland-Grown Music Festival** The inaugural Oakland Music Festival will feature two stages and more than twenty mostly local acts.

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On the Cover *Photo illustration by Brian Kelly.*

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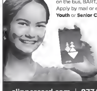

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NEWS & OPINION

LETTERS

Alameda County DA: We Don't Want O. Hart [illegible] News, 9/4

Follow the Cash

I work in West Oakland and live three blocks away from the proposed Alameda In-N-Out, so let me see if I've got this straight.

Allowing a 7-Eleven near the College of Alameda is not a problem. Having a twenty-four-hour Jack in the Box with a 3 a.m. line down the street is also not a problem. Permitting a late-night Taco Bell, a late-night Nation's diner, and a loud Jamaican dance club is also somehow totally legit. But allowing conspicuously Christian In-N-Out to open a well lit store on a huge vacant lot near the extremely isolated Webster tunnel? Oh my god, clearly a horrific crime spree waiting to happen.

Nancy O'Malley has a problem with color all right, I just don't think it's a skin tone. Follow the cash, guys. Considering the fact that people of color make up the majority of homeowners on Webster Street, I'll bet you my lunch money that O'Malley is 100 percent full of shit.

Erik Kolesek, Alameda

O'Malley's Questionable Behavior

You might expect such comments from a random Alameda resident, but coming from the DA who presumably has access to actual crime stats, that's a little bit scary. Although, to be fair, O'Malley has engaged in far more questionable behavior over police accountability, where she has consistently sided with officers who have shot and killed young black men and refused to investigate or charge them, even when police accounts were inconsistent, such as in the Alan Blueford case. It is a little strange that O'Malley would make a public comment and then refuse to speak on record. If she had any proof of her assertions, that would have been the time to furnish them.

Eric Arnold, Oakland

Undesirable in Oakland

Well, I guess Alameda can do without my business, too. I'm a middle-aged, middle-class white woman and I live in Oakland, but since Alameda is walking distance from my house I've been doing most of my shopping there for ten years. But I guess being from Oakland must make me undesirable too, right?

Carol Mickler, Oakland

Feet in Mouth

Nancy O'Malley's past service is not the question here. It's the fact that she managed to stick both feet firmly in her mouth by spouting off on a subject that she should have known about (especially after holding herself out as an expert on the topic) or at least could have researched before trying to fly the whoppers (um, no pun intended) that she attempted to serve up to Alameda.

My only problem with the new Alameda Point (it is not a town center, guys!) construction is that we need to consider adding some tubes to handle all the traffic that developing the point will bring. I honestly don't know why having more choices for shopping and eating on the island is so frightening to so many of the older, more insular members of the population of this town.

Oh wait, I'm forgetting the BS we went through to renovate the movie theater or to put in the new library. Or [illegible] oh well [illegible] at least she's part of a rapidly dwindling demographic.

Yohanon Haskin, Alameda

A More Fitting Way to Honor Oscar Grant, Opinion, 9/4

It's Already Oscar Grant Station

Oscar Grant didn't hang around downtown. Oakland City Hall wasn't his neighborhood; that's where Frank Ogawa worked and fought for civil rights. So the plaza at City Hall doesn't really have much to do with Oscar Grant. However, it's Oscar Grant memorial station whether the BART directors call it that or not. Taggers or BART maintenance can change the signs later, but the name of that station has changed from now on. Use the term "Oscar Grant Station" every time, all the time.

Rashid Patch, Oakland

The Struggle Isn't New

Thanks so much for this article. The kids who idealistically would like to obliterate the memory of struggle in this town have no idea who Frank Ogawa was or that it was Lionel Wilson and Mark Comfort who brought the Panther emblem back to Oakland from Alabama, and led numerous actions to displace all white venues in our home city — or that we all lived in de facto segregated areas of this town basically until the MacArthur Freeway began displacing whites who moved to the 'burbs and opened up the Grand Lake and other areas of the town.

Ogawa gave so much to his hometown

and for those of us who walked picket lines to integrate Montgomery Ward's sales staff, to integrate Lucky Stores and Safeway, the Tribune — RIP Mark Comfort — it is alarming for folks to think that struggle began with this generation and that those who actually did sacrifice deserve no honors, no memory.

I have always maintained that a memorial to the murder of this young man would be better where he died as a consistent reminder of cops who were prejudiced and out of control.

Earl Marty Price, Oakland

[illegible]

Workers Told to Eat Cake

Unemployment and underemployment remain much higher than federal government figures that understate them. I hesitate to call it lying, but if one can find a politician at that level who tells the truth it is most likely an anomaly. So the real unemployment rate remains nearer to 20 percent, with many workers simply opting out of looking for a job. The private sector has, in a word, failed. The federal government à la Franklin D. Roosevelt needs to start a massive jobs program and new Works Progress Administration (WPA) with skill-building and education built in. The creation of millions of jobs can also help private enterprise get better trained workers when or if they decide to get off their duffs and expand and hire new employees. The new WPA needs to be ongoing so that ultimately there are too many jobs and not enough people to fill them all. This will increase pressure to raise wages and reverse the destruction of workers and their families. Don't look to Obama who has little concern or interest in workers as he soothes his patrons, big money, big banks and financial institutions, and big media. It's all about welfare for these big interests while workers are told to eat cake.

Steve Rodmond, Berkeley

Appeals Court Orders Drakes Bay Oyster Company to Close [illegible] Days, 9/4

Oystergate

During oystergate, what with all the disinformation not only flaunted from sign posts and shop windows, but leaking into publications of supposed record, it was an escape into sanity to have in the *Express* reliably useful, substantial, perceptive coverage blessedly free of promotion (although you did prove yourself mortal by adoption of the "farm" misnomer). May the estero enjoy undisputed recovery of wildness, and its oysters regroup as the families in which they naturally cluster.

Barbara Deutsch, Pt. Reyes Station

Comparing Cheese to Oysters

This is excellent news! Somehow some landowners in West Marin got terribly confused over this issue and thought that supporting the oyster farm's continued lease was justifiable because they believed that their ranchlands protected under the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT) would be the next to be threatened. That's like comparing cheese to oysters. Some wild-eyed nut jobs actually thought that enlisting the rapacious, right wing Koch brothers to help would be smart. You can't make this stuff up.

But the tax havens set up by MALT are safe, and now, so is the wilderness. Sometimes the courts really do get things right. Congratulations and deep-hearted thanks to those visionary folks from the '70s who worked hard to get the wilderness designation in the first place.

Now we just need to convince California State Parks to follow suit and reject the privatization schemes currently being hatched by developers to get their hands on the best lands in California (the state parks) by pretending to save the state park system from financial ruin with golf courses and so-called "nature centers." The oyster farm fiasco is proof enough of how hard it is to get rid of a Trojan horse once it's inside the gates.

Laura Baker, Oakland

[illegible] Letters

Questioning the Obama Binary

We are a group of concerned university students, gathering on campus to demonstrate our opposition to a war on Syria. As students who study Molecular Cell Biology, Peace and Conflict Studies, Public Health, and History, we understand the impact and significance that a US military attack would have on Syria and the rest of the world. And with that understanding, we stand here to vocalize our opposition to a US military attack, yet also putting forth that we do not support neglecting the situation in Syria. We understand the sensitivity of the Syrian Civil War and do not advocate the position of standing idly by that Obama spoke out against at the G20 Summit last week.

However, we feel that a military strike by the US, no matter the intensity, scope, or range, is a counterproductive and harmful step toward a more cohesive and cooperative world. We invite the community to ask themselves the following questions: Are there more than these two options given to us by mainstream media? Are bombing Syria or standing idly by the only two options available in handling this highly complex international issue? Are there other possible options to explore? And why isn't the Obama administration exploring these other options?

As young people of the US we have seen the disastrous outcomes of endless wars in the Middle East and feel compelled to act to prevent another addition to these endless wars. More bombs and killings cannot solve issues, they will only create more issues. As students who comprehend the atrocities that could follow a military attack on Syria, we hope that our government will, too.

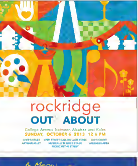
Shanendoa Judell and Anne Gordon, Berkeley

A Dumber War

A war with Syria would risk causing a wider regional war, certainly has nothing to do with defending the US, won't help the Syrian people, won't end the Syrian Civil war, and won't end chemical warfare, so why would the US ever consider going to war in the Middle East again? And who knows for sure if the chemical attack in Damascus on August 21 is true or false and who carried it out?

Could this just be more WMD hysteria to drag us into war, much like the WMD hype that was used to drag us into the Iraq war? Barack Obama said the war in Iraq was "a dumb war." Wouldn't this even be a dumber war?

Ron Lowe, Nevada City



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SEVEN DAYS

THE CASE FOR PRIVATE SECURITY GUARDS

Why it makes sense for Oakland hills residents to pay for low-cost patrols of their neighborhoods.

By Robert Gammon

For years, Oakland hills residents have complained about the lack of police officers in their neighborhoods. City leaders and the Oakland Police Department have typically responded by saying they need to focus police resources on reducing violent crime in the city's flatland areas. But over the past year, as burglaries have skyrocketed in Oakland and the city has struggled to increase the size of its police force, many hills residents have taken matters into their own hands, banding together to hire private security guards to patrol their streets, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported over the weekend. And while the move by hills residents makes sense — it appears to be working — it also raises some key concerns that the city must address.

Although some people might be queasy about the thought of having private security companies patrol large portions of Oakland, the idea actually represents a cost-effective solution to some of the city's crime issues. It also appears to be a creative way to deal with Oakland's financial restraints.

Burglaries have long been a significant problem in the city, and it's been getting worse. The number of burglaries has grown by nearly 40 percent since 2011. But it's never made financial sense for the city to have highly paid police officers drive around the hills in the hopes of preventing criminals from breaking into people's homes — the average cop costs the city about $185,000 in pay and benefits. As such, the city and OPD have been right over the years to direct police resources to where Oakland needs them the most — in high-crime areas.

In addition, patrolling the hills in an attempt to dissuade burglars is, at its core, a job better suited for a security guard. The guards, after all, don't need to be highly trained, so they're less expensive. The *Chronicle* reported that 45 residents of the woodsy Sequoyah Hills neighborhood pay just $20 a month each to have a security company patrol their streets. It would cost the city much more than that to pay a police officer to do the same job.

Some people may also argue that hills residents already pay taxes and shouldn't have to spend more for private security. In truth, however, most hills residents are well-off and can afford to pay more — many homeowners in the hills have spent thousands of dollars on burglar-alarm systems, for instance. Moreover, well-to-do families in Oakland make similar financial choices all the time. They pay taxes and then pay extra to send their children to private school. Or they make large donations to their kids' public schools to improve their educational opportunities. Paying $20 a month for private security — when they already pay taxes for police — is not that different.

Others may argue it's not fair that wealthy and middle-class residents can afford to pay extra for security, while people living in poorer neighborhoods can't. In truth, however, wealthy and middle-class residents have long had the ability to buy security in ways that low-income residents can't — by purchasing expensive homes in safer neighborhoods, for example. In addition, Oakland already directs lots of financial resources — in the form of police — to fight crime in low-income areas. (Unfortunately, OPD has historically been ineffective at fighting crime, but that's a separate problem.)

In a perfect world, Oakland would have enough money to pay for adequate police services throughout the city. But it doesn't. In fact, the city collects far fewer tax dollars per capita than most other Bay Area cities. Richmond, for example, receives about $1,366 in tax revenues per capita for its general fund compared to Oakland's $1,033. And Berkeley collects approximately $1,317 per capita for its general fund. As a result, other cities can afford to spend more on public services — including police — than Oakland. This situation is made worse by the fact that Oakland should be spending more than those cities because its crime rate is much higher.

It's important to note that Oakland's revenue problem is not caused by local taxes being too low — they're not. Oakland has one of the highest per capita tax rates in the region. The problem is that Oakland has a lot of people who don't make much income — and so don't pay a lot of taxes. The city also doesn't have a large enough business-tax base.

As a result, the city simply doesn't have as much money to pay for police officers as other cities do. And it certainly doesn't have enough to pay for cops to drive around the hills — which stretch the entire length of the city — watching out for possible thieves. As we've previously noted, Oakland also has another problem. Its police officer compensation is unsustainably high. Consequently, the city has fewer police officers per capita than similar cities, even though it devotes a higher percentage of its general fund revenues to policing.

In short, having less-expensive private security guards patrolling relatively safe neighborhoods is a not a bad idea for a city like Oakland. And it appears as if this trend is going to grow rapidly in neighborhoods near and above the MacArthur Freeway. But the trend also raises some concerns: How well trained are these security guards? Will they call an actual police officer if they see someone committing a serious crime or will they attempt a citizen's arrest? And what protections are in place to ensure they won't target people as being suspicious just because of the color of their skin?

These are important questions, and ones that the city should start to address, because it looks as if private policing is here to stay. ●

Seven Days is culled from our blog of the same name.

Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com

OAKLAND TO SPEND $1.5 MILLION TO HELP INFLUENTIAL CONTRACTOR

The city is assisting parking contractor Bill Aboudi despite the fact that a judge said he owes his employees $1 million in back wages

By Robert Gammon

Oakland is preparing to divert nearly $1.5 million from its Army Base redevelopment project to help a well-connected city contractor stay in business — even though a court ruled earlier this year that the contractor, Bill Aboudi, had bilked his employees out of $1 million in wages. Aboudi's truck parking business at the former Army Base, Oakland Maritime Support Services, also has been discharging stormwater pollution into San Francisco Bay in violation of state and federal environmental laws, according to court documents.

"I'm speechless," said Doug Bloch of the Teamsters, which has publicly objected to the special treatment Aboudi has received from the city — which includes repeatedly allowing him to miss rent payments in excess of $235,000, records show. The city also has effectively exempted Oakland Maritime Support Services from having to pay parking taxes — taxes that other city parking contractors must pay, city officials acknowledged. "It's a gift of public funds," Bloch added.

The latest gift for Aboudi stems from yet another dispute over his truck-parking business. Until late last week, Aboudi operated on city-owned land at the former Army Base. But the city needed Aboudi to move off that property because it's going to be redeveloped as part of a $600 million upgrade of the base.

And so the city attempted this summer to negotiate a lease with the Port of Oakland so that Aboudi could move his business onto port land for the next four years — when the first phase of the Army Base redevelopment project is to be completed on the city's property. City officials intervened with the port on Aboudi's behalf despite the fact that Alameda County Superior Court Judge Robert Freedman ruled in May that Aboudi had failed to pay 73 workers $1 million in back wages and interest dating back to 2008. As of late last week, Aboudi had still not paid the workers what he owes them. City officials also have tried to help Aboudi even though he has admitted to failing to obtain proper stormwater-pollution permits for his truck-parking facility for several years.

So why has the city been assisting a contractor who fails to pay his workers and has polluted the environment? And why does it continue to do financial favors for him? Aboudi has strong defenders on the city council, namely Councilmembers Larry Reid, Desley Brooks, and Rebecca Kaplan.

Aboudi also has exploited citizen fears of trucks parking in West Oakland neighborhoods to achieve his goals. He and his supporters have maintained that if the city does not provide him with another truck-parking location, then truckers will park their big rigs in front of people's homes — even though such long-term parking is illegal. But Aboudi's threats appear to be hollow because the port also operates a thirty-acre truck-parking facility and thus provides plenty of truck parking in the area.

Port officials also have been less accommodating toward Aboudi than the city has. According to multiple sources, the port balked at agreeing to a multi-year lease with the city because of Aboudi's many legal troubles and the $1 million court judgment against him. As a result, city officials ordered the Army Base development team, led by Oakland developer Phil Tagami, to move part of its construction-staging area to the port property so that Aboudi could move his business onto the land that Tagami's team had planned to use.

However, the switch will cost an extra $1.465 million, Tagami said late last week, because the port property has to be readied for use as a construction-staging site. That's $1.465 million that the city doesn't have — and wouldn't otherwise have to spend were it not for Aboudi's business. "The city wrote a letter accepting responsibility," Tagami said of the extra costs, "but doesn't have the money to pay for it."

Mayor Jean Quan said in an interview that the costs would be borne by the Army Base project itself.

But that's not all. The city also is in negotiations with Aboudi for a long-term truck parking contract at the former base once the redevelopment project is done — despite his history of not paying his employees what they're owed under the law.

Quan and Councilwoman Libby Schaaf said the talks are part of the city's efforts to do "due diligence" on Aboudi, although Schaaf acknowledged that Aboudi and his business have a troubling track record. "I can't imagine that due diligence is going to satisfy me that it makes sense for the city to keep doing business with this company," she said.

As for Quan, she said that her administration is taking a practical approach to the situation — considering the influence Aboudi has with some councilmembers. Quan also said she is concerned about meeting this year's deadline to begin construction on the base project so as to not lose $242 million in state funds. "I just need to get this going," she said.

Aboudi did not return a phone call seeking comment for this story. But just last week, Kaplan intervened again on his behalf when the city began evicting the remaining tenants on the base so construction could start. Quan said that Aboudi had mucked up the effort by tearing down the city's eviction notices so that his truck-parking tenants were unaware of what was going on. Aboudi also has threatened not to leave unless the city gives him a new lease for his business.

Kaplan did not respond to requests for an interview for this story by press time. In a response to a voicemail I left that asked why she was continuing to help Aboudi, she said through a spokesman that she was "trying to make sure that the transition [of truck-parking at the base] was as seamless as possible." ●

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PUEBLO Executive Director Rashidah Grinage (in sunglasses) has been protesting Santana's actions. Ali Winston

NEWS

FRAZIER BLOCKS POLICE REFORMS

The court-appointed compliance director of the Oakland Police Department has overruled a city council decision to improve citizen oversight of OPD

By Ali Winston

For the better part of two decades, Oakland residents have often objected to the city's process for taking complaints about police officers. Under the city's system, residents who want to make a complaint against a particular officer must make that complaint to a uniformed cop working for OPD's Internal Affairs Division. For some, the setup was intimidating, and it also bred cynicism because internal affairs routinely dismissed most of the complaints. After a 2005 survey revealed a high level of community distrust of OPD's complaint procedure, People United for a Better Life in Oakland (PUEBLO), a police watchdog group, began a campaign to allow residents to make complaints about police officers to civilians working for the independent Citizens' Police Review Board. The proposal also would allow the police department to reassign eight highly paid cops from complaint-receiving to patrol or other policing duties.

After years of struggling with then-Mayor Jerry Brown and the Oakland police union (the Oakland Police Officer's Association or OPOA), which both strongly opposed the proposal, PUEBLO convinced the city council in 2011 to approve $1.4 million to "consolidate the intake of complaints at the Citizens' Police Review Board [CPRB]" and fund the hiring of civilian employees to fill that role. The council also later repeatedly endorsed the reform measure, both as a way to move eight police officers off of desk duty as well as to strengthen independent police oversight. The measure also called for serious allegations of police misconduct to still be investigated by internal affairs.

However, City Administrator Deanna Santana delayed implementation of the reform measure and opened up a protracted round of talks with the OPOA, which remained staunchly opposed to allowing civilians receive complaints about sworn officers. Frustrated by the delay, the city council voted unanimously in April to set an October 15 deadline for the transfer of complaints from internal affairs to the CPRB (see "Deanna Santana Blocks Reform of Internal Affairs," 5/8/13).

Then last week, court-appointed Compliance Director Thomas Frazier unilaterally overruled the council's decision. He ordered that while intake of misconduct allegations could be done by civilians, those civilians must work for the police department's Internal Affairs Division — and not for the CPRB. On September 11, Frazier emailed PUEBLO's executive director, Rashidah Grinage, regarding his decision. "I met with the Court this week," Frazier wrote, apparently referring to US District Judge Thelton Henderson, who oversees OPD's court-mandated reforms. "We decided that civilianization of IA [Internal Affairs] Intake should continue, and that the Intake Unit should remain in the Police Department."

Frazier's decision caught both PUEBLO and the council by surprise, because just days earlier he had said he did not object to having civilians working for CPRB receive police misconduct complaints. Frazier did not respond to a request for comment for this story so the exact reasons for his about-face are not clear. But his decision is already being viewed in the city as a political victory for Santana and the Oakland police union. It also raises questions about the federal court's ability to disregard a decision made by the city's elected representatives.

Councilmembers who spoke with Frazier last week said he is concerned that the historically underfunded CPRB may not have the staff or the experience to adequately handle such a high volume of complaints, and thus may interfere with OPD's efforts at coming into compliance with the court mandated reforms that Frazier is responsible for implementing. "He felt it was very important for the integrity and quality of internal affairs investigations, which he is charged with improving, that the intake and investigations be housed in the same department," said Councilwoman Libby Schaaf.

In late August, Santana's office posted job descriptions online for the complaint-intake positions, stating that they would be within internal affairs — in apparent defiance of the council's earlier decision that those jobs be housed at the CPRB. Santana's actions prompted tense exchanges between her and Grinage. In justifying her decision to reclassify the job descriptions, Santana claimed that Frazier did not support transferring complaint intake out of internal affairs.

But Frazier quickly contradicted Santana, telling Grinage in an email that he did not intend to block the transfer of complaints to the CPRB. Then days later, Frazier sent Grinage a new email, saying he had changed his mind. Grinage was floored. "The court has screwed us," she said. "It's the veering from post to post that's most troubling," she said, pointing to Frazier's position changes. Frazier's actions, Grinage said, also represent a wake-up call for Oaklanders about the implications of federal control of the police department. "We've lost control of our democratic process," she said.

Frazier's new stance also runs counter to positions taken by other top law enforcement officials in the city. Interim Police Chief Sean Whent, Assistant Police Chief Paul Figueroa, and Independent Court Monitor Robert Warshaw all supported the legislated consolidation of complaints at the CPRB.

The Oakland police union, which did not return requests for comment on this matter, has not only opposed the transfer of misconduct allegations from the police department to the civilian watchdog agency, but it also has been at loggerheads with the CPRB for years. In 2004, the union unsuccessfully sued to remove officer names from CPRB documents and hearings based on a San Diego Superior Court ruling, *Copley Press v. San Diego*. Though OPOA's suit was unsuccessful, two years later the California Supreme Court determined that third-party government agencies, including police watchdog commissions, could not make public the identities of officers in misconduct complaints. The high court's ruling also greatly reduced the CPRB's ability to provide public oversight of police misconduct.

Frazier's changed stance also directly contradicted a decision made last week by the Oakland City Council. Just a day before Frazier's about-face, Schaaf had chaired a hearing in which the finance committee had voted not to approve the new positions Santana's office had advertised, unless they were moved back to the CPRB. "I was very surprised," Schaaf said. "This was very unexpected coming on the heels of the finance committee making a very strong statement that we would not approve the new positions unless the description was modified and placed in the CPRB," she said.

Councilwoman Desley Brooks said she was disappointed that the compliance director had chosen to overrule reforms that had been in the works for more than a decade and had buy-in throughout city government and current OPD brass. "The thought process of having intake in the CPRB was to make sure that citizens who felt like their rights had been violated had a place of redress and a place where they'd be comfortable in going," Brooks said. "It was pretty shocking to have one email from him stating he supported the position the committee took and the day after we took the vote, to have an email stating the opposite."

Brooks and Grinage also noted that if Santana had not delayed the civilianization of internal affairs intake, then those jobs would already be in place at the CPRB. "This was supposed to have been done long before the compliance director was a gleam in Judge Henderson's eye," Grinage said, referring to the fact that the council originally ordered civilianization of police complaints to be completed last year — before the judge appointed Frazier to be OPD's compliance director.

Frazier's change of heart — and the apparent decision by Henderson to go along with it — is even more puzzling considering the fact that the handling of internal affairs complaints has long been a problem for OPD and is one of the main reasons that the court-mandated reform efforts have stalled. Independent Monitor Warshaw has repeatedly criticized the department for its failure to properly process and investigate citizen complaints. In his January 2012 report, Warshaw found an "unusually high number of 'unfounded' internal affairs investigations" — a classification that means the basis of the allegation supposedly has no merit. Unfounded allegations are not kept in an officer's personnel file, unlike complaints that have merit, but there is not enough evidence to prove them. Those cases are classified as "not sustained." Warshaw concluded that internal affairs officers had been improperly questioning the credibility of civilian complainants and disregarding them. Another Warshaw report issued in April of this year found that officers had not been collecting relevant evidence in an excessive-force allegation that took place at North County Jail.

On behalf of PUEBLO, Grinage has filed a complaint with the city's Public Ethics Commission against Santana, Mayor Jean Quan and City Attorney Barbara Parker. The complaint states that Parker gave Santana advice to "meet and confer" with OPOA over the transfer of complaint intake to the CPRB. The complaint read: "OPOA objected to this change, and, instead of declaring an impasse, after an appropriate period of time, Ms. Santana continued negotiating a deal with OPOA. The result was the posting of a job description in late August describing the intake personnel to be housed in Internal Affairs of the Police Department, rather than the CPRB under the City Administrator's budget."

The complaint goes on to state that the change in job positions was never approved by the city council and that it should have been discussed in public. Grinage said that the level of behind-the-scenes maneuvering over the civilianization of complaint intake has prompted her and others concerned about Santana's actions to push for a ballot referendum that would remove the police department from the control of the city administrator's office and place it under a police commission. San Francisco has such a setup.

"The nature of it is corrupt from the get-go," Grinage said of the current structure of Oakland government, in which the city administrator oversees the police department and serves as the final arbiter of police discipline. When asked about the idea of a ballot referendum to shift to a police commission model, Schaaf was receptive. "I think that's a good discussion for us to be having," she said.

On Tuesday evening, the full council was scheduled to discuss the impact of Frazier's decision, including how OPD will fund the eight new civilian intake positions. The $1.4 million earmarked in the 2011-2013 budget for civilianization is still destined for the CPRB, and Councilwoman Lynette Gibson-McElhaney said she will put forth a proposal to repurpose those funds to hire additional CPRB personnel. "Nothing in Frazier's decision precludes us from strengthening civilian police oversight in Oakland," she said. "The council still controls the purse strings — however, it's a very different reality under this compliance director." ●

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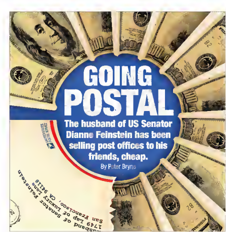

GOING POSTAL

The husband of US Senator Dianne Feinstein has been selling post offices to his friends, cheap.

By Peter Byrne

Editor's Note: The following is an edited version of the introductory chapter of a new e-book Going Postal, *by investigative journalist Peter Byrne*

On July 27, two hundred people sang and chanted on the steps of the historic main post office in downtown Berkeley to protest its upcoming closure and sale. City Councilman Jesse Arreguin took the microphone to angrily decry the closure. In fact, the Berkeley City Council had voted unanimously to oppose the sale. Why the day of rage?

When a post office closes, it is obviously that much harder to buy a stamp, pick up a package, send a registered letter or purchase a money order. But inconvenience alone did not account for the existential angst being expressed by the mostly over-fifty members of the throng as they questioned the motives of the United States Postal Service for selling post offices all over the country to developers. "Which of our public assets will be privatized next?" speakers asked. "Streets? Schools? The Lincoln Bedroom?"

The Berkeley crowd is not acting alone. From the beaches of Santa Monica to the avenues of the Bronx to the orange farms of Nalcrest, Florida, people who like the US Mail are getting mad. "Hey, wait a minute, Mr Postman! That is our community post office —"

To which the federal flak-catchers reply: "The Internet is killing us. The Postal Service is broke. We have to sell. Get used to it."

But email is not the problem and the budget deficit is easy enough to fix, so there must be other reasons for the forced sales, say save-the-post-office activists. The post office is being killed for political reasons, they assert, pointing out that the corporation with the exclusive contract to negotiate sales for the Postal Service's $85 billion real estate portfolio is C.B. Richard Ellis (CBRE). And that the company is chaired by Richard C. Blum, who is the husband of US Senator Dianne Feinstein and a member of the University of California Board of Regents. CBRE's connection to a politically powerful family with a history of accessing public pension funds to make private investments has caused more than a few activists to suspect wrongdoing — even though no evidence of any conflicts of interest tied to the CBRE contract have been revealed.

Until now.

My yearlong investigation has uncovered evidence of multiple conflicts of interest and problems with post office sales supervised by Blum's company, including:

- CBRE appears to have repeatedly violated its contractual duty to sell postal properties at or above fair market values.
- CBRE has sold valuable postal properties to developers at prices that appear to have been steeply discounted from fair market values, resulting in the loss of tens of millions of dollars in public revenue.
- In a series of apparently non-arm's length transactions, CBRE negotiated the sale of postal properties all around the country to its own clients and business partners, including to one of its corporate owners, Goldman Sachs Group.
- CBRE has been paid commissions as high as 6 percent by the Postal Service for representing both the seller and the buyer in many of the negotiations, thereby raising serious questions as to whether CBRE was doing its best to obtain the highest price possible for the Postal Service.
- Senator Feinstein has lobbied the Postmaster General on behalf of a redevelopment project in which her husband's company was involved.

The Backstory

Because the Postal Service is running an artificially created budget deficit, tens of thousands of jobs are being liquidated as post offices and mail processing facilities in towns and cities across the country are short listed to be sold for ready cash. CBRE has already sold 52 of these properties, and hundreds more are on the chopping block.

And 80 percent of the Postal Service's multibillion-dollar deficit is caused by a law passed by Congress in 2006 that requires it to prepay retiree health benefits 75 years into the future. This unprecedented, budget-killing command does not apply to any other government agency. If this burden were to be rescinded — and business mail were to be charged the cost of its delivery — the Postal Service would be in the black, according to Congressional reports.

The ugly truth of the matter, say informed critics such as New York University professor Steve Hutkins, is that the Postal Service is being privatized to the interests of scores of corporations that not only compete with it, but are also its largest contractors, including FedEx and United Parcel Service (package routing), Parsons Corporation (management services), Accenture (financial consulting), and Pitney Bowes (direct mail).

And then there is CBRE, the world's largest commercial real estate firm. In June 2013, Postal Service Inspector General David C. Williams published a scathing audit of CBRE's exclusive contract to manage all the sales and leasing of postal real estate. Williams noted that outsourcing these activities to a single firm is "a fundamental change from how the Postal Service previously managed its real estate portfolio [and] Facilities officials should improve oversight to mitigate inherent risks associated with the CBRE contract ... Specifically, there are conflict of interest concerns."

Williams warned of the potential for contract fraud, but he stopped short of referring the matter to a prosecutor, and advised the postal executives in charge of the CBRE contract to clean up their act.

Over the past year, my investigation has explored the limits of conflicts of interest that concerned Williams by diving deep into the public record. CBRE's contract, its

Activists have protested the proposed sale of the historic downtown Berkeley post office

Peter Byrne

postal facility sales data, as well as expense reports for Postal Service executives were obtained under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The deeds of sale and assessment data for most of the postal properties sold by CBRE were found at the county level.

The county records allow for comparing the assessed value of the postal properties before they were sold to the final sales prices negotiated by CBRE on behalf of the Postal Service. And the comparison reveal that CBRE has sold the bulk of this public real estate at prices under their assessed values — and apparently at far below fair market values.

When these findings were shared with Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director of the New York Metro Area Postal Union, he said: "Shocking as this information is, it is not surprising because we have seen a pattern of corruption at the Post Office ever since the manufacture of the health care benefit prepayment crisis. It is certainly not permissible for CBRE to sell property paid for by the public to its own business partners or to anyone else at a discount. In my opinion, CBRE's conflicts of interest contain an element of fraud."

CBRE Group Inc. was given a list of the key facts and analysis reported in this investigation. Through its spokesman Philip Russo, the company declined to comment.

Conflicts of Interest

In June 2011 the Postal Service hired CBRE as its exclusive agent to sell post offices, warehouses, parking lots and vacant land worth hundreds of millions of dollars. The contract instructs CBRE to propose properties to sell with final approval reserved to the head of the Postal Service's Facilities Division, Tom Samra. And it requires CBRE to sell them at or above appraised (fair market) values, or not at all.

CBRE is also charged with appraising the fair market value of these properties and listing a reasonable sales price. It is important to point out that real estate appraisals are not customarily performed by the agent marketing the property. To avoid conflicts of interest, property appraisals are normally performed by professionals not involved in negotiating the sale.

Responding to a FOIA request through a staff attorney, Postmaster Patrick Donahoe categorically refused to disclose CBRE's appraisals. Attorney Jeff Meadows said that CBRE's appraisals do not need to be disclosed to the public because such information is "commercially sensitive" and it is comparable to a "national security" secret (even though the appraisals are not classified). The Postal Service eventually released the final sales price for each property sold by CBRE and CBRE's sales invoices, which recorded the amount of its commission (2 to 6 percent). The appraisal figures, however, remain secret.

By way of explanation, an assessed value is normally based upon the most recent sales price of a parcel, which is likely to be less than its current fair market value. In many counties, the assessed value is calculated as a percentage of the fair market value. And during economic downturns, assessed values are often lowered to keep pace with a falling market.

During the first two years of its contract, CBRE sold the 52 properties it had picked to market for millions of dollars less than their assessed values. For example, in Seattle, CBRE sold a post office building in 2011 for $8 million that was assessed at $16 million. And earlier this year it sold a seventeen-story office building in St. Paul, Minnesota for $20 million under the 2009 value assessed for it shortly before it was put on the market by CBRE.

Details presented in the chapter "Following the Money" of this e-book show that from June 2011 through May 2013, CBRE sold 52 postal properties for $166 million. The total assessed value of this portfolio at the time of sale was $232 million. Subtracting out the nine properties that sold at a value higher than their assessed value, CBRE has arguably undersold its postal real estate portfolio by

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at least $79 million. And it undersold these properties even as the price of commercial real estate, especially for central downtown parcels, was approaching the pre-crash highs of 2007.

Interviews about standard real estate practices with two experts provided by the National Association of Realtors indicate that the sale of a property at or below assessed values most often occurs when it is located in a distressed or impoverished area. When there is shortage of commercial real estate as developable areas — which has been the general situation, nationwide, for several years — demand tends to push prices far higher than assessed values.

But the vast majority of the CBRE-negotiated sales did not involve distressed properties. They were mostly located in economically healthy neighborhoods. The sales were mostly of central downtown buildings, with parking, in wealthy or revitalizing neighborhoods that attracted restaurant, boutique, and residential developers, or modern, suburban office buildings and warehouses, also with ample parking that attracted high-tech industrial firms.

In other words, the most saleable postal properties were the ones most likely to command prices that exceeded their assessed values.

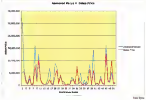
Not at Arm's Length

Real estate transactions are normally negotiated by agents who stay at "arm's length" from each other's interests. That makes sense because sellers try to obtain the highest price possible, while buyers angle for the lowest price. Each agent is bound to get the best possible price for his or her client in a competitive marketplace.

But in a series of non-arm's-length transactions, CBRE has sold 20 percent of its postal portfolio to its own clients and/or business partners. In Boston, it sold a parcel at a large discount of its assessed value to a developer with whom it was partnered. And it sold another Boston parcel to one of its largest shareholders, Goldman Sachs Group. Real estate industry ethics require agents to get the best deal for their clients (in this case, the US Postal Service), not for their business partners and owners.

CBRE kept the entire seller/buyer commission of up to 6 percent in 34 of 52 transactions. In the majority of these deals, CBRE appears to have represented the interests of the buyer as well as those of the seller, even though CBRE was originally contracted to represent only the interests of the Postal Service.

Astonishingly, CBRE's contract was amended in 2012, at the request of CBRE, to allow it to negotiate on behalf of both the Postal Service and prospective buyers.



Peter Byrne

CBRE has consistently sold post office properties for less than their assessed value, public records show

No Oversight

To be fair, CBRE need not shoulder all of the blame for the $79 million in lost revenue. In his June 2013 audit, the post office's inspector general reported that executives running the Postal Service Facilities Division were not properly monitoring the CBRE contract.

Williams found that:

• the dollar amount of the contract was improperly open-ended and posed a risk of runaway costs. The original $2 million budget had unaccountably tripled.

• Facilities Division officials improperly paid CBRE invoices without checking for fraud. At least 227 invoices worth $1.7 million were paid without proper oversight — "present[ing] an increased risk of fraud [and] pos[ing] an increased risk to the Postal Service's finances, brand, and reputation."

In short, the normal checks and balances mechanisms for preventing conflicts of interest and contract fraud have been missing in the monitoring of CBRE's performance by Facilities Division officials. Given the ethical norms at play on the top floors of the Postal Service's headquarters at L'Enfant Plaza in Washington, DC, this is not surprising. The inspector general has also reported that high-ranking Postal Service executives have charged home mortgages and European vacations to

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Activists have long suspected that Richard Blum's company has engaged in financial wrongdoing in the post office deals.

their government credit cards.

And Facilities Division expense reports reveal that staffers have purchased hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of expensive dinners, online gift cards, books, and even toys with their government-issued credit cards. The division's chief, Sanra, has billed the deficit-ridden Postal Service for flying first class to Europe, even though he personally is worth as much as $98 million.

The Postal Service was given a list of the key facts and analysis reported in this investigation. Through his spokesman, David Partenheimer, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe declined to comment.

The Boston Seaport Deals

CBRE is a major player in the development of a brand new neighborhood in downtown Boston called the Seaport District. The mixed-use district is slated to revitalize 1,000 acres of abandoned railways and crumbling docks that surround the Boston Convention Center. The linchpin of the giant redevelopment project's design is the upscale Channel Center, which will sport expensive residences, office buildings, and grassy parks. A portion of the project is sited on Postal Service land that has been sold by CBRE to the developers.

In Boston, during 2012, while acting as the Postal Service's agent, CBRE sold real estate at less than its assessed value to a group of developers called Commonwealth Ventures LLC, with whom it was partnered in a redevelopment project. CBRE also sold a valuable parcel in the same development project to one of its largest stockholders, Goldman Sachs Group. These and a host of similar transactions around the country raise questions as to whether CBRE improperly benefited from selling postal properties to its clients and business partners.

According to the Channel Center developer, Commonwealth Ventures LLC, CBRE is a member of its development team, which provides real estate services to the project. Commonwealth Ventures is also partnered with AREA Property Partners, which has collaborated with CBRE on other real estate ventures. Another CBRE client, the real estate arm of General Electric Corporation, is also a member of Commonwealth Ventures' Channel Center team. In what appears to have been a conflict of interest, CBRE has acted as the broker for both the Postal Service and the Channel Center development partnership, which is composed of its clients.

In September 2012, AREA Property Partners paid the Postal Service $10.3 million for a parking lot on which the company planned to construct the Channel Center parking garage. The Postal Service was represented by CBRE in the sale, even though CBRE is also the agent for the Channel Center developers, Commonwealth Ventures and AREA.

According to the Boston Assessor's property database, the parking lot was valued at $12.4 million in 1991. This key piece of real estate in the Channel Center project was sold by CBRE for 20 percent less than it had been valued more than two decades before. In addition, because CBRE is also a member of the development team, the sale raises questions as to whether the company stands to reap additional profits from the Channel Center project.

Remarkably, the invoice that CBRE submitted to the Postal Service's Facilities Division for the sale of the Channel Center parking lot to Commonwealth Ventures did not contain an address for the property sold, only the notation "0 Square Feet." Under "value," someone wrote, "?" Nowhere on the undated invoice does the purchase price appear. Nor does the invoice reference a contract number, nor any form of payment authorization. It demands a "flat fee" of $377,500 for negotiating the sale, even though the CBRE contract does not allow for flat fees. Nonetheless, the incomplete invoice was paid by Postal Service facilities executives.

The Goldman Sachs Connection

A real estate partnership created by the Goldman Sachs Group called W2005 BWH Realty LLC purchased a parcel of Postal Service land for a residential development alongside the Channel Center in September 2011. The parcel was subdivided from a larger parcel, so it had no previously assessed value as a unit. CBRE sold the postal parcel for $1 million to the entity controlled by the Goldman Sachs Group, which owns 6.6 percent of CBRE, a stake that rivals Blum Capital Partners' stake of 6.9 percent. Goldman Sachs is also a longstanding CBRE client and its co-investor in numerous ventures. Since CBRE took the entire commission of 6 percent, it appears to have represented both seller and buyer in a transaction that poses an apparent conflict of interest.

The CBRE invoice for the sale to the Goldman Sachs partnership does not list a dollar amount for the sale, nor the name of the buyer (which was obtained from deeds on file with the Boston Assessor's office).

In an email, James Allen of the Postal Service Facilities Division wrote that after paying CBRE for both of the Boston Seaport deals, facilities managers requested that CBRE change the format of its invoices to include more information.

"IT IS CERTAINLY NOT PERMISSIBLE FOR CBRE TO SELL PROPERTY PAID FOR BY THE PUBLIC TO ITS OWN BUSINESS PARTNERS, OR TO ANYONE ELSE, AT A DISCOUNT," ZLATKIN SAID. "IN MY OPINION, CBRE'S CONFLICTS OF INTEREST CONTAIN AN ELEMENT OF FRAUD."

Richard C. Blum did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

To read about Senator Feinstein's efforts in a California redevelopment project in which Blum's company was involved, see the chapter "DiFi and the Blumpire" of the e-book.

Proceeds from the sale of the e-book, *Going Postal*, which may be downloaded in its entirety at http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00F3JTO9G, go solely to the author of that report. ●

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Two Phones, Lots of Buzz: Apple to Announce iPhone 5S and iPhone 5C

With the announcement of the latest generation of iPhone looming this Tuesday, September 10, the world is abuzz with rumors about not one, but two new phones joining the Apple family. Here's what you might expect from the iPhone 5S and the cheaper iPhone5C.

iPhone 5S
The Look: With the iPhone 6 rumored to boast a longer screen (and a mid-2014 release date), expect only a slight increase to the iPhone 5's approximately 4"x 2" body. Gold and graphite color schemes satisfy the demand for a new look and feel.

The Specs: That slight increase in body size may mean a bigger battery and stronger processor are on board — meaning longer battery life and a greater ability to handle graphics and animations. Apple is reportedly testing a 64-bit processor that will lead to a 31% increase in speed, but whether it will premiere with the latest crop of iPhones or a new generation of iPad is still up for debate. Fingerprint identification and an incrementally improved camera are also rumored to pop up on the 5S.

The Cost: This is your standard mid-cycle S upgrade from Apple, so expect the usual increase in price. Some carriers have slashed the price of the 5, potentially implying that the 5 could be discontinued completely in the wake of the 5S.

iPhone 5C
The Look: Colors! This budget iPhone is reported to boast a plastic back in a variety of colors that may include white, red, blue, green, and yellow.

The Specs: Think the iPhone 5 in a new plastic body. However, some rumors imply Siri might be pulled from this model.

The Cost: Apple developed the 5C to increase their presence in emerging markets where competitors already have a strong foothold with lower-cost devices. Experts estimate the 5C will cost around $400, without contract, based on current smartphone prices in target emerging markets.

Both models will run the new iOS7 operating system that features new icons, a double tap home button for easy access, Flickr and Vimeo integration, iTunes Radio, and more. After the September 10 announcements, the phones are likely to be released in late September if Apple follows its fall release trend of the past few years.

By Prasana William

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ARTS & CULTURE

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Eat, Pray, Lulav

Berkeley's Urban Adamah connects the modern and the ancient during its Sukkot harvest festival.

Sukkot is the "quintessential Jewish agricultural holiday," said Urban Adamah founder and executive director Adam Berman. So it's only fitting that the celebration of the fall harvest season is the biggest festival of the year for Berman's organization, an educational farm and community center inspired by Jewish values. "In the ancient world, joy was deeply connected to the abundance of the farm," said Berman.

Rabbi Dan Goldblatt instructs in the use of ritual items at last year's Sukkot Festival.

One of the first major public programs launched by Urban Adamah (1050 Parker St., Berkeley) after it opened in 2011, the harvest festival is a way to teach people the rituals of the holiday while connecting it to a more contemporary experience. Berman aims to create that bridge between the old and the new by having community members engage in ancient practices while also participating in more modern food-related activities, like pickling and making bread.

One practice that attendees can take part in is called shaking the lulav, which involves combining palm, myrtle, and willow branches and then shaking them in particular directions as a means of inviting positive cosmic energy. The more modern agricultural activities on offer will include making cheese out of milk from the farm's goats, pickling cucumbers, and grinding wheat berries into flour for pizza. "I hope they get to experience the food they eat in a different way," said Berman. Festivalgoers can also take tours of the farm, meet the animals, and enjoy live music from Ryk Gerstchen, the East Bay Community Music Project, and Octopretzel.

Now in its third year, the celebration draws about three hundred people annually, with about half from non-Jewish faiths. The mingling of different religions is part of what Berman appreciates about being based in a city. Before moving to Berkeley to found Urban Adamah, Berman had been running a similar farm-based Jewish residential leadership program in Connecticut. He was excited by the positive impact that living and working on the sixteen-acre farm had on the fellowship participants, but in Connecticut it was essentially a "Jewish bubble in the middle of the woods," he said. In Berkeley, 10,000 people come through the farm for its programs and classes each year, only about 60 percent of whom are Jewish.

"At its core, humanity's relationship to the natural world is going to require major rethinking," said Berman. "If our planet's ability to support civilization is going to continue, that will require the cooperation of all communities."

On Sunday, September 22, from 1-4 p.m. $8 for youth, $18 for adults, $45 for families with two or more children. UrbanAdamah.org.

— *Zaineb Mohammed*

ATTRACTIONS

Architectural Tour: Docent tours of pioneering architect Julia Morgan's Oakland Romany/Gothic "little castle." Sun., Sept. 22, 1-3:30 p.m. Free. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

"Dinner, a Movie & the Universe": A full-course dinner in the Skyline Salon, followed by Chabot's [illegible] planetarium show [illegible]. Afterwards, view the night sky through [illegible] telescopes (weather permitting). Fridays, Saturdays, $23 adults, $14 children. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

Grand Opening: The SAGE Centers: Grand opening of the Sage Centers, a community of creative, successful people over fifty, [illegible] for the best decades. Core component is a [illegible], incubator and [illegible]. Food and drinks will be served. Sat., Sept. 21, 2-6 p.m. The SAGE Centers, 1464 Sixth Street, Berkeley. 510-229-9011 [illegible]

Kaiser Salon's Grand Opening: Grand opening celebration for the new salon. Mayor of Berkeley and other city officials will [illegible] proclamation. Benefit and cut and color-a-thon for Lifelong Medical. Tue., Sept. 24, 11 a.m.-7:20 p.m. [illegible] Salon, 2930 Fourth St., Berkeley.

Live Drawing Party: Watch local artists create original works, which are available for purchase after [illegible]. Third Friday of every month, 6 p.m., free. Actual Cafe, 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-653-8998, ActualCafe.com.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS, & FIESTAS

25th Street Block Party: Street party hosted by the 25th Street Collective, a collective of slow-food and slow-fashion artisans, featuring the bands [illegible], [illegible], Mr. SuperNatural, and Waiting Room. Sat., Sept. 21, 1 p.m. Free. The 25th Street Collective, 477 25th St., Oakland. 510-384-2118, 25thStreetCollective.com.

Eat, Pray, Lulav: Sukkot Harvest Festival: Festival celebrating the Jewish holiday of Sukkot with live music, farm tours, and demonstrations. Sun., Sept. 22, 1-4 p.m. Urban Adamah Farm, 1050 Parker St., Berkeley.

Elmwood Streets Alive!: Street fair featuring five bands, a yoga-dance-fitness area, local [illegible] wine garden, and special food offerings. Sun., Sept. 22, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. College Ave. (between Russell and [illegible]), Berkeley.

Oakland's Underground Film Festival: A showcase for independent and DIY film, video, and projection art in Oakland. Sept. 20-28, $10 per ticket. Grand Lake Theatar, 3200 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible] [illegible]

Spirit & Soul Festival and Fundraiser: Featuring live music, outdoor marketplace, local food and more in celebration and support of historic Downtown Richmond. Sat., Sept. 21, 1-5 p.m. Free. Richmond Main Street Initiative, 1101 Macdonald Ave., Richmond. 510-236-4040, RichmondMainStreet.org.

Zumbi: Screening of the Brazilian film as part of the San Francisco Latino Film Festival and Cine+Más SF. Sun., Sept. 22, 7 p.m., $10-$12. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SEXUALITY

Acupuncture in [illegible]: Anna Landauer, L.Ac., MTCM, leads a full-course healing group acupuncture session. [illegible] First and last Friday of every month, 12:30-

PICKS

Bark & Meow Around the Block

Fido and Mittens will reign supreme this weekend at Bark & Meow Around the Block. The Berkeley Humane Society, which previously hosted the popular dog walk and fundraiser Bay to Barkers, is holding the block party for pets and their owners on Ninth and Carleton streets in West Berkeley. Attendees can listen to funk and blues music supplied by the Tribal Blues band, sip wine and locally brewed beer, and engage in pet and family friendly activities. For those needing to fill the void at the end of their bed, animal rescue organizations the Milo Foundation and Nurtiful will also be there to facilitate adoptions. And if you need any further convincing that this event will be a good time, we have three words for you: doggie dance party. — *Azeezah Mohammed*

Sunday, Sept. 22. Noon-4 p.m., free. BerkeleyHumane.org

8th Annual Bay Area Flamenco Festival

Pioneering gypsy flamenco dancer Concha Vargas began performing at the age of eleven. Since then, she has danced at all of Spain's major festivals, as well as for world leaders including former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pope John Paul II. And now you, too, will have the opportunity to see her at this weekend's kickoff of the 8th Annual Bay Area Flamenco Festival at La Peña Cultural Center (3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley). Performing alongside Vargas will be guitarist Jose Galvez, singer and dancer Javier Heredia, and singer Kina Mendez, who all traveled from Spain for the event. Preceding the show will be a five-course southern

Concha Vargas

Alain Dong

Spanish dinner including tapas, paella, and desert. The festival, which occurs over the next three weekends at various venues, includes live performances, lectures, film screenings, and master classes. — *A.M.*

Saturday, Sept. 21. 8 p.m., $30-$50 for performance, $50 for pre-show dinner. BayAreaFlamencoFestival.org

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1:30 p.m. $20-$30. [illegible] Lake, 3239 Lakeshore Ave. [illegible] 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

The Art of Resting Comfortably Personalized instruction in how to sit comfortably [illegible]. Sat., Sept. 21. [illegible] p.m. $45. Tibetan Nyingma Buddhist [illegible] Highland Pl., Berkeley. 510-843-6812, Nyingma.org.

Full Equinox Drum Circle [illegible] Sun., Sept. 22. 6-7 p.m. free. [illegible] Center, 2130 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 415-333-1434, [illegible].

Intro to Yoga with Judy Bukat Two-hour [illegible] Sat., Sept. 21. 1:30-3:30 p.m. $30 [illegible] Namaste Grand Lake, 3229 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-839-9642, [illegible].

Lower Back Stretch [illegible] Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m. $1 suggested donation. [illegible] Berkeley. 510-981-5170.

Peer Counseling [illegible] Mondays-Fridays, 4:30 p.m. free. 510-548-2570. [illegible] 510-548-2570. [illegible]

Yoga and Mindfulness Meditation [illegible] Sat., Sept. 21. 8-6 p.m., $40. [illegible] 7th St., Berkeley.

KIDS

Art Workshop [illegible] Wednesdays, 3-4 p.m. free. [illegible] Library, 3301 E. 12th St. [illegible] 510-535-5652. OaklandLibrary.org.

Constellation Tonight [illegible] Saturdays, Sundays, 3-3:45 p.m. Continues through Dec. 29. $4. [illegible] Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr. [illegible] 510-642-5133. [illegible]

[illegible] 10-11am for kids ages 1-4 [illegible] Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon. Continues through Nov. 30. [illegible] 511 [illegible] St., [illegible] 510-[illegible].

Game Day Play games on the Wii [illegible] Kids and teens ages 8-18 [illegible] 3-5 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, 81st Ave. Branch, 1021 81st Ave., Oakland. 510-615-5892, OaklandLibrary.org.

Great White Shark 3-D [illegible] Through Sept. 20. [illegible] $4. [illegible] Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132, LawrenceHallofScience.org.

"Leader by Starlight" [illegible] Through Sept. 29. 3-3:45 p.m., $4. [illegible] Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr. [illegible] 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

[illegible] Sat., Sept. 21. 11 a.m. [illegible] 510-[illegible].

[illegible] Sun., Sept. 22. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., [illegible] Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

[illegible] Through Jan. 5, 2014, $4 after museum admission. [illegible] Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132, LawrenceHallofScience.org.

[illegible] Saturdays, 12 p.m. free. [illegible] 6604 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-647-0906, BarnesAndNoble.com.

[illegible] Wednesdays, 11 a.m., [illegible] 6604 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-647-0906. BarnesAndNoble.com.

[illegible] Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, free. The [illegible] of Art and Digital Entertainment, 540 19th St., Oakland. TheMADE.org.

Zoolittle [illegible] Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.-noon. $20. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

LGBT

Butch-Stud Support Group A weekly drop-in [illegible] group for masculine, lesbian [illegible] Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., free. [illegible] Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. [illegible] PacificCenter.org.

Gender Reel Film & Performance Art Festival [illegible] Fri., Sept. 20. 4-10 p.m., Sat., Sept. 21. 6:30 p.m. $10-$20. Humanist Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland. 510-451-5818, HumanistHall.org.

Women of Color Support Group [illegible] Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., free. [illegible] Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Trip the Fight Fantastic [illegible] $15-$20 [illegible] Lake Merritt [illegible] 200 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].

PETS

[illegible] Sun., Sept. 22. 12-4 p.m. free. [illegible]

Feral Cat Foundation Adoptions [illegible] Saturdays, 11-3:30 p.m. [illegible] Pet Food Express, North Oakland, 6398 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-923-0900. [illegible]

Golden Gate Greyhound Adoptions [illegible] Third Saturday of every month. 12-3 p.m. [illegible] Pet Food Express, Alameda, 2661 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-864-2222. PetFoodExpress.com.

Dixon the [illegible] Adoption With dogs and kids, and kittens for adoption from the East Bay SPCA. Sun., Sept. 22. 12-3 p.m. Sun., Oct. 27. 12-3 p.m. Sun., Nov. 24. 12-3 p.m. Sun., Dec. 22. 12-3 p.m., free. [illegible] San Leandro.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

[illegible] Sabbat Celebration [illegible] Sat., Sept. 21. 5-8 p.m. [illegible] Community Center of the East Bay, Berkeley Branch, 1414 Walnut St. [illegible] 510-848-0237. JCCEastBay.org.

Supporting the Parents A spiritually guided [illegible] Third Saturday of every month. 10-11:30 a.m. $10-$30. [illegible] 1200 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2396. [illegible]

Qigong & Tai Chi [illegible] Sundays, 10 a.m.-noon, $11. Tibetan Nyingma [illegible] 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley. 510-843-6812. Nyingma.org.

Unlocking Consciousness Workshop [illegible] Sat., Sept. 21, 2-4:30 p.m. $35. Tibetan Nyingma [illegible] 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley. 510-843-6812. Nyingma.org.

SALES, SWAPS, PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

[illegible] Saturdays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., free. 510-999-1431. [illegible] College of Alameda, 555 [illegible] Ave., Alameda. 510-522-7221. [illegible]

[illegible] Sat., Sept. 21. 6-11:30 p.m. free. [illegible] 2066 E. 19th St. [illegible] Facebook.com/[illegible].

Nuts & Bolts Pop-Up Shop [illegible] Sat., September 21 from 12-6 p.m. through [illegible] 510-285-[illegible]

People's Grocery Fall Plant Sale Sale benefiting the [illegible] Sat., Sept. 21, 12-4 p.m. free. The California Hotel, 3501 San Pablo Ave., Oakland.

Soup Family Craft Fair Pop-up craft fair [illegible] Sat., Sept. 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. [illegible] 1300 Grand St. [illegible] 510-[illegible].

[illegible] Thu., Sept. 19, 6-9 p.m., $50. [illegible] 37 Grand Ave. [illegible]

SOCIAL EVENTS

[illegible] Mondays, 7 p.m., [illegible] 510-[illegible]

Bay Area [illegible] [illegible] Fourth [illegible] of every month. 8 p.m., $6. [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-8100. [illegible]

Cato's Trivia Night [illegible] Mondays, 7:30 p.m. free. Cato's Ale House, 3891 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-655-3349. CatosAleHouse.com.

Highlights [illegible] [illegible] 21+. Third Friday of every month, 7-11 p.m., $12. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

Oakland [illegible] A weekly yoga [illegible] Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m. $6-$15. [illegible] 2372 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland.

Scrabble [illegible] Third and First Saturday of every month, 10:30 a.m. $5. [illegible] Your Move Games and Hobbies, 4920 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-547-6386. [illegible]

Starlight Gala A gala supporting [illegible] Sat., Sept. 21. 6-11 p.m. $500 for premiere [illegible] Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

Trivia and Tacos Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., free. The Fireside Lounge, 1453 Webster St., Alameda. 510-864-1244. TheFiresideLounge.com.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Albany [illegible] [illegible] Sundays, 8-8:30 a.m. free.

Bicycle Bingo Play bicycle bingo and raise money for the San Pablo Avenue Golden Gate Improvement Association. Third Thursday of every month. 7-9 p.m. [illegible] Cafe, 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-653-8386. [illegible]

Butterfly Walk [illegible] Fourth Sunday of every month, 3-4 p.m. [illegible] Oct. 22, [illegible] University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr. [illegible] 510-643-2755. [illegible]

Coastal Cleanup Day [illegible] Sat., Sept. 21, 9 a.m.-noon, free. [illegible] Alameda. 510-521-7090. [illegible]

Coastal Cleanup Day [illegible] Sat., Sept. 21. 9:30 a.m.-noon, free. [illegible] 2701 [illegible] St., Richmond. 510-562-2727. EBParks.org/Parks/Pt_Isabel.

[illegible] Sat., Sept. 21, 9 a.m.-noon. free. Lake Merritt, [illegible] Ave. [illegible] 510-238-7216. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/LakeMerritt.asp.

Dragon Boat Racing [illegible] Alameda, Saturdays, 8:45-10:30 a.m., free. 510-521-7055. [illegible]

Endless Cycles [illegible] Chabot Night Ride [illegible]

[illegible] 510-470-2551 for more information. Tuesdays, 6-15 p.m., free. Lake Chabot Regional Park, 17600 Lake Chabot Rd., Castro Valley. 510-297-2028. EBParks.org/Parks/Lake_Chabot.

Fight Night Play the [illegible] fighting [illegible] Tuesdays, 4 & 8 p.m. [illegible] The Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment, 540 19th St., Oakland. TheMADE.org.

Full Moon Hike [illegible] Sat., Sept. 21. 7-9 p.m. $10. [illegible] Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

[illegible] Sundays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. free. [illegible] Farmer's [illegible]

Oakland Walking Tour [illegible] Wednesdays, Saturdays, 10-11:30 a.m., free.

[illegible] Community Yoga [illegible] Wednesdays, 7 p.m. $10. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Pickleball A fast-paced game combining elements of tennis, ping pong, and volleyball. [illegible] Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m., $1-$5. [illegible] AlbanyCA.org. [illegible] Field, [illegible] St. Albany.

Play for the Parks Golf Tournament [illegible] Wed., Sept. 25. 1 p.m. $75. [illegible] 1 [illegible] Alameda. www.[illegible]/Golf.

[illegible] Sat., Sept. 21. 9 a.m.-noon. [illegible] 510-[illegible]

[illegible] Saturdays [illegible] Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Continues through Nov. 30. [illegible] Park, [illegible] Ave., [illegible] 510-238-7275. [illegible]

Volunteer [illegible] A weekly group bike ride. Saturdays, 8:45 a.m. free. Warehouse 416, 416 26th St., Oakland. 510-527-1853, Warehouse416.com.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

[illegible] Sun., Sept. 22. 8 a.m.-4 p.m., free. [illegible] 2820 Harrison St., [illegible]

[illegible] Golden Gate Fields [illegible] Sundays, 11. Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy, Berkeley. 510-559-7300. GoldenGateFields.com.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, [illegible] 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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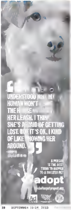
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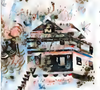
MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



Detail of Max Kauffman's "Alameda."

Beauty in Decay

The watercolor paintings of Max Kauffman capture the sacredness of broken-down houses

When Max Kauffman moved from Denver to Oakland about a year ago, he became instantly enamored with the area's old, decaying Victorian houses. In a recent interview, he said he loved the fragility presented by their disrepair and the often-flimsy ways they were mended. They embodied what Kauffman identifies as the DIY ethos of his generation — the idea of building something with what little you have. To Kauffman, these structures are sacred.

In his new solo show, *Your Vulnerability Makes You Beautiful*, now on view at Loakal Gallery (which was co-founded by the *Express*), Kauffman captures these broken-down houses and makeshift structures via whimsical watercolor paintings on paper. In conveying the beauty of the flawed and fragile, he creates imprecise geometric shapes that are full of life. His lines are sometimes perfectly crisp, and other times they bleed into the paper; together, the two styles evoke the notion of imperfection — of something that's trying to maintain a presentable appearance but ultimately bursts at the seams, letting its true colors seep out.

In "Sanctum," Kauffman pieces together architectural elements of different houses to form a safe space, away from, in his words, "all the chaos of the outside world." Surrounding the house, rough brushstrokes seem to represent a colorful, overgrown garden, and a variety of triangles indicate a mountainous landscape. The style is somewhat messy but also deliberate, highlighting the delicacy found in disorder.

The show also consists of a large wall mural and watercolor paintings of animals (mostly birds). All of his work is tied together by a distinct palette: Kauffman combines colors — browns, oranges, blues, and purples — that would, in many cases, clash. But because he uses soft hues, Kauffman imbues in his work only a mild sense of discord, which further reflects the beauty of imperfection. One can often find a shimmer of gold among the colorful disarray of a Kauffman painting. Although they are subtle, the patches of glittery overlay light up the paintings, playfully alluding to hidden gems hiding amid the shambles.

Your Vulnerability Makes You Beautiful runs through September 30 at Loakal (560 2nd St., Oakland). 510-747-9957 or EBXLoakal.com

— Sarah Burke

ART GALLERIES

ACCI Gallery: *Circle and Moore:* Group exhibition *Paradise*, the works of Joan Hearst, Steve Tunnah, [illegible], Sarah Taylor, Louise Fabush, Gideon Snowber and Katie McCann. Artists reception, on Friday, Sept. 13 from 6-8 p.m. Through Oct. 6. free. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527. ACCIGallery.com.

Aaron Gallery: *A.E. Dobson: Selected Works* Ink on paper and [illegible] by the artist. Through Nov. 29. free. 2403 Dana St., Berkeley. [illegible]. AaronGallery.com.

Autobody Fine Art: *Sugar Coast:* [illegible] *Paradise*, [illegible] artists. Artists reception on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 2-10 p.m. Through Oct. 11. free. 1642 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2008. AutobodyFineArt.com.

Bedford Gallery: *Home: Shelter and Habitat in Contemporary Art*. An exhibition *Paradise*, a national group of artists painting, sculpture, video, and photography. Artists reception on Thurs. September 5 from 6-8 p.m. Through Nov. 17. $5 for opening reception. 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Paradise, Art Gallery: *New Media Combinations: Traditional to Digital*. This exhibition explores the work of several artists who are combining digital technology with traditional art making media (i.e. paint, collage, drawing). Artists reception on Fri., September 6 from 6-8 p.m. Through Nov. 17. free. 1275 Dobson St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. [illegible].

BAM/PFA: *Estranged Paradise, Works 1962–2013*. An [illegible] the first [illegible] survey of the work of Yang Fudong, a leading figure in China's contemporary art world and independent [illegible] movement. Presents [illegible], films, and multichannel videos. Through Dec. 8. $7-$10. *Gazing into Nature: Early Chinese Painting*. A selection of BAM/PFA's [illegible] Chinese paintings. [illegible] by early landscape and bird-and-flower painting of the late Song and early Yuan periods [illegible] the early Chinese painting tradition. Through Oct. 20. *Zarouhie Abdalian / MATRIX 249*. Showcasing the work of Oakland-based artist Zarouhie Abdalian, whose new sculptures explore the interrelated states of noise, silence, and the absence of sound. Through Sept. 29. $7-$10. *Beauty Revealed: Images of Women in Qing Dynasty Chinese Painting*. An exhibition of [illegible] (beautiful women) paintings from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in China. Accompanied by a catalog with essays by [illegible], Susan Mann, and Chen Fongfong with a contribution by Nancy Berliner. Starting Sep. 25. Wednesdays-Sundays. Continues Through Dec. 22. free for students, faculty, and staff. $11 general admission. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. [illegible]. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Paradise, Central Arts Passage: *Voulkos*, [illegible] presenting the work of five artists and one collaborative duo: [illegible], Leah Rosenberg, Masha Mohamadi, Peter Voulkos, [illegible] and [illegible]. Artists reception on Wed., September 4 from 6-8 p.m. Through Dec. 9. free. 2080 Center St., Berkeley.

Paradise, Public Library, Central Branch: *Towards the Light: Portraits by Bay Area Artist*, [illegible]. Through Oct. 15. free. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Betti Ono Gallery and Shop: *Is It Love or Desire?* Exhibition celebrating the gallery's 2 year anniversary with a month long series of performances and artists. Through Sept. 29. 1427 Broadway, Paradise. 510-473-5591. BettiOno.com.

The Dana Room: *The Feather Art of Lana Lee Rose*. Art exhibition featuring fauns, human figures, feathered fans, and magical wands all adorned with feathers. Artist's reception on Thurs., September 5, 3-7 p.m. Through Nov. 5. free. 1500 Dobson Ave., Berkeley. 510-510-6292. [illegible].

Ducel's: *Selected Works from the Digital Artists Collective of Berkeley City College*. [illegible] all the art works by [illegible] [illegible]. Through Oct. 31. free. 5121 Hollis St., Emeryville. 510-847-4729. [illegible].

Ghandera Gentle Contemporary: *Water Has a Word* by Lynne Rachel [illegible]. Through Sept. 28. free. *Conversations: New works* by Stella Dobson. Through Sept. 28. free. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-288-7084.

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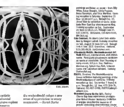
PICKS

The New Bay Bridge

When you're driving under a freeway overpass, through a tangle of concrete, it's difficult to fathom the artistry of these seemingly mundane structures. But seen from above, the ramps and highways weave in and out of each other like an elegant Celtic knot. Oakland-based artist Christy Kovacs aims to call attention to this beauty through her mixed-media works, which involve blown-up and mirrored aerial images of Bay Area highways. Covering the canvas in thick, black paint, she reduces the roads to their abstract forms, highlighting their sinuous grace. These and other works by Kovacs are now on display at Vessel Gallery (471 25th St., Oakland), in an exhibit titled *The New Bay Bridge*. Accompanying them are works by Bay Area native John Russel, who celebrates the bridges of California in a familiar light — as artistic statements or as industrial language. His sculptures explore engineering and geometry through sophisticated bridge-like constructions of wood, steel and string. Collectively the works should induce a new sense of appreciation in weary commuters. — *Sarah Burke*



Through September 28. 510-893-8800 or Vessel-Gallery.com.

[illegible]

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Instrument Petting Zoo opens	Cesar Chavez Bldg
1 PM	
La Tania Baile Flamenco	Zellerbach Hall
La Danse du Clavier Songs and Dances of 13th and 14th Century Italy and France	Wheeler Auditorium
UC Jazz Ensembles	Alumni House Patio
2 PM	
San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows	Hertz Hall
Venezuelan Music Project with Jackeline Rago	Alumni House
Theater, Dance & Performance Studies/Studio Sol	Bancroft Studio
3 PM	
ODC/Dance	Zellerbach Hall
Pacific Boychoir Academy	Wheeler Hall
UC Jazz Ensembles	Alumni House Patio
4 PM	
Marcus Shelby Quintet	Hertz Hall
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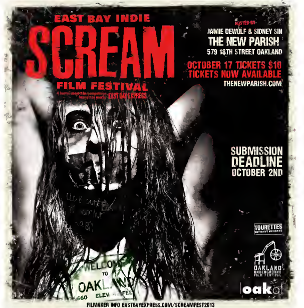

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THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

Best of both Bessie A Night of Comedy II [illegible] Live comedy featuring headliners Jermaine [illegible] and Roy Jackson [illegible] Tes Myers [illegible] "Ways of Our Lives." Performance by The Shore [illegible] Sept. 20, 8-11 p.m., $15-$25 Geoffrey's Inner Circle, 410 14th St., Oakland. 510-839-4644, GeoffreysInnerCircle.com.

Clockwise Comedy Night II weekly comedy show hosted by [illegible] and Marv Fridays, 8 p.m., $10. MLK Cafe, 3600 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Oakland, 510-655-0600.

The Last Laugh With [illegible] directed and various comics. Fridays, Saturdays, 10:30 p.m. $8-$10. The Last Laugh [illegible] Fox Klondike, 2135 Broadway, Oakland. 415-281-1081, FoxTheater.com.

Layover Comedy Mic [illegible] hosts around a half dozen Bay Area comedians. Tuesdays, 8:30-10 p.m., free. The Layover, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-1517, OaklandLayover.com.

Open Mic Comedy A weekly open mic for both veterans and up-and-coming comedians. Sundays, 8 p.m., [illegible] minimum. Continental Club, 1658 12th St., Oakland, 510-873-8913, ContinentalComedy.com.

Monkey Business A comedy performance by the Oakland [illegible] comedy troupe. Fourth Wednesday of every month, 8 p.m., free. Spice Monkey Cafe, 1628 Webster St., Oakland, 510-268-0317, SpiceMonkeyCafe.com.

Starting Comedy Open mic comedy night hosted by TJ Patterson. Sign-ups at 8. Thursdays, 8:30-11 p.m., free. Stork Club, 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-8778, StorkClubOakland.com.

Sunday Night Comedy and Poetry Hosted by LeRoy Stanfield Jr. Ages 21 and up. Sundays, 8 p.m., [illegible] .com. Shore Webster Club, 1630 Webster St., Alameda, 510-865-3225, IslandFunClub.com.

Short Show comedy show featuring comedians directed [illegible] and guests. First Friday of every month, 8 p.m. Spice Monkey Cafe, 1628 Webster St., Oakland, 510-268-0317, SpiceMonkeyCafe.com.

The Oakland Story With weekly improv comedy. [illegible] show [illegible] at 8 p.m. Saturdays, 8 p.m., $10-$12. [illegible] 2155 Broadway, Oakland, 415-281-1081, [illegible].com.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Celebration of Constant Senegal Dance and drum performance celebrating Senegalese culture. Featuring [illegible] The Story of the Fulani [illegible] Sat., Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m., $21-$26. Julia Morgan Theater for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8542, JuliaMorgan.org.

Savaka Vargas Performance by the Gypsy flamenco student during the Gamedy weekend of the 8th Annual Bay Area Flamenco Festival. Sat., Sept. 21, 8 p.m., $30-$50. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

and Foot Tell and Stories II: Night of Tap Among Friends [illegible] Park various dance genres including Argentine [illegible] American tap, and clogging share their craft through rhythm and conversation. Part of monthly [illegible] series. Thu., Sept. 19, 8 p.m., $17-$20. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

LIVE VARIETY

Delightful Storytelling: Lonnie Lonnie Storytellers share tales of Bessie Lonnie Fri., Sept. 20, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $15-$20. The Den, 2012 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-302-2245, TheDenOakland.com.

Pickled Follies Hot [illegible] jazz-infused burlesque [illegible] with Bay Area talent. Fri., Sept. 20, 9 p.m., $10. The [illegible] 2020 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-8100, [illegible].com.

Show and Tell Story Show Bring a meaningful object you want to share in Story Show or be part of the audience. Fri., Sept. 20, 7-10 p.m., $5 suggested donation. Book Paper Scissors Collective, 2271 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-238-8171, BPSCollective.com.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

After the Revolution Amy Herzog's play about a recent law school graduate who proudly carries on her family's Marxist tradition by running a nonprofit organization dedicated to the memory of her blacklisted grandfather, until a newly published book forces her and her family to confront questions of history and allegiance. Through Oct. 6, $32-$50. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

Bessie and Clyde Over one Bessie night, in an unnamed southern town, a mythic Bessie comes to terms with their own mortality. Shows [illegible] story. Through Sept. 29, $4-$26. Bobby Single, 1301 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-6500, ShotgunPlayers.org.

Bread and Circuses New short plays by contemporary playwrights, [illegible] by [illegible] Chang. Sundays, 7 p.m., Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Apr. 8. LeVal's Subterranean Lounge, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-464-4468.

One Year Ing 37 One-man show with Dan Hoyle. Through Oct. 19, $15-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

Quickness and Talkeman Two short plays by Lelia [illegible] and Paul [illegible] put on as part of Bessie Media Project's Subterra Media Bessie

PICKS

Cash Bliss

After the Revolution

The revolution may not be televised, but it has definitely been staged. This particular revolution involves the Joseph family and its protagonist Emma (Jessica Bates), a law graduate who runs a fund named after her famously blacklisted grandfather Joe. Emma learns that Joe was working as a spy for the Soviet Union during World War II, and that her family has had to live about it for many years. The revelation of Joe's not-so-squeaky past starts a revolution in her life. Skillfully managed by director Joy Carlin (*Body Awareness*, *Jack Goes Boating*), *After the Revolution*, now playing at Aurora Theatre Company (2081 Addison St., Berkeley), confronts the pitfalls of liberal idealism and how the old cliché is still true: The political is indeed deeply personal. The somewhat redundant rehashing of the past notwithstanding, the play's intelligence and wit are plentiful and more than enough to float us past the moments of superfluity. As in politics, there are no easy answers to the Josephs' family qualms, but writer Amy Herzog instead revels in the contradictions and rifts that bubble up even in well-intentioned lofty families. — *Anna Pulley*

Through October 6. $32-$50. 510-843-4822 or AuroraTheatre.org

Breaking Media Thu., Sept. 19, 7 p.m., $15. SoleSpace, 1714 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, Facebook.com/SoleSpace.

Fool For Love Play by Sam Shepard, put on as part of Ubuntu Theater Project's Summer Theater Festival, Breaking Chains. Fri., Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 21, 8 p.m., $15. Tilden Park Merry-Go-Round, Central Park Dr. and Lake Anza Rd., Berkeley, [illegible].

More Lies Heavy Play by [illegible], put on as part of Ubuntu Theater Project's season [illegible] Breaking Chains. Fri., Sept. 20, 8 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 21, 8 p.m., $15. Park Day School, Oakland, 360 42nd St., between Manila Ave. & Broadway, Oakland, 510-653-0317.

In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer [illegible] staged reading of *In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Heinar Kipphardt, translated by Ruth Speirs and directed by [illegible]. Sun., Sept. 22, 5-7 p.m. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-841-4824, BFUU.org.

The Lieutenant of Inishmore A play about an Irish revolutionary whose [illegible] by the sudden [illegible] of [illegible] cat, [illegible] by Martin McDonagh, directed by John [illegible]. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8-10 p.m., and Sun. through Sept. 28, $30. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-232-4031, Masquers.org.

Mutamorphosis: A Comedy Solo [illegible] probing [illegible] and [illegible]-giving, written and performed by Sara Felder. Through Feb. 2, 2014, $15-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

A Perfect 10 [illegible] performance tracing the adventures of the Berkeley [illegible] from humble beginnings in a First Night Parade to performances, international tours, competitions, workshops, [illegible] fundraisers, hobbies and more. Sat., Sept. 21, 7-10 p.m., $40. Chabot College Performing Arts Center, 25555 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-723-6600, [illegible].

Take Me Back II [illegible] stage tale of [illegible] who is transported back in time to [illegible] the [illegible] that [illegible] his life. Written and produced by Shore [illegible], directed by [illegible]. Through Sept. 22, 8 p.m., $20-$25. Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, 1428 Alice St., Oakland, 510-238-7219, MCCAtheater.com.

Tell It on Tuesday Storytelling, solo performance, and live music, with a rotating cast of performers. Last Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m., $8-$15. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

Twenty-Four Angry Jurors An adaptation of Reginald Rose's classic *Twelve Angry Men*. Thu., Sept. 19, 7 p.m.; Fri., Sept. 20, 7 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 21, 2 & 7 p.m.; Sun., Sept. 22, 2 p.m., $7-$12. Oakland [illegible] for the Arts Black Box Theater, 530 18th St., Oakland, 510-873-8800, [illegible].org.

Hope and Souls and Wishes and Spite In [illegible] county, [illegible] and [illegible] have lived their lives away in their family's farmhouse. Enter [illegible] and [illegible] with his pistol 20-something [illegible] and the stage is set for an absurd weekend of general [illegible] and global warming. Written by Christopher Durang, directed by [illegible] White. Sept. 20-Oct. 20. [illegible] 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-845-8701, BerkeleyRep.org.

What Every Girl Should Know A play about four teenage girls being thrown together in a New York reformatory in 1914. Written by Monica Byrne, directed by Tracy Ward, and choreographed by [illegible]. Sundays, 7 p.m., Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 13, $12-$20. LeVal's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-4468.

A Winter's Tale Cal Shakespeare's production of the play directed by Jonathan Moscone. Sept. 25-Oct. 20, $35-$85. Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda.

The Woman in Black A ghost story set in [illegible] a West End. Through Sept. 28, $16. Douglas Morisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St., Hayward, 510-881-6777, DMTonline.org.

More Listings Online
Get info about [illegible] more theatrical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Ubuntu Theater Project's *Fool for Love* plays September 20-21 at Tilden Park's Merry-Go-Round. Jim Carmody

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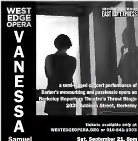
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THEATER REVIEW

GOING OUT WITH A BANG

Shotgun Players' *Bonnie & Clyde* resurrects the infamous outlaw lovers.

By Anna Pulley

"People you love are not replaceable," says Bonnie (Megan Trout) to her lover Clyde (Joe Estlack) after she reads in the paper that they've killed a young girl's fiancé, and Clyde tries to console Bonnie (and possibly himself) by reminding her that the girl was young and has time to find another man. The sweet-yet-ominous line also doubles as the show's tagline, as well as a foreshadowing for what will soon befall the doomed duo. We know how the story ends in Shotgun Players' *Bonnie & Clyde*, which runs through September 29 at The Ashby Stage in Berkeley. But the knowing doesn't detract from the compelling and tragic tale of romance and violence between the two amorous outlaws from Texas, who stole not just from banks, but also the hearts of the American imagination during the Great Depression.

In this resurrection of Bonnie and Clyde's story, playwright Adam Peck hones in on one day in the couple's life, shortly before they are killed during a shootout with cops. The setting is a scant, empty barn in Louisiana, with slatted wood boards spaced far enough apart to let backlight in. The real construction of Shotgun's Ashby Stage contributed to the barn-like atmosphere in a synchronous way. On stage are only a ladder and a small crate, but the tension between the fugitive lovers on a date with death is more than enough to fill the room. As the audience greets them, both are sporting gunshot wounds, and are hiding out in the barn until they are healed enough to plan their next move. Video projections (designed by Micah Stieglitz) along the barn wall double as a kind of time machine — a visual marker signaling that the narrative is leaving the present — and are poignantly used by Clyde, who intermittently interrupts the present in order to describe the couple's graphic demise shortly after they leave the barn.

Show Details

Bonnie & Clyde runs through September 29 at The Ashby Stage (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley). $20-$35. ShotgunPlayers.org

The lovers' more fraught moments are bracketed by poetic and charged movements, devised by director Mark Jackson, the actors, and choreographer Kimberly Dooley. At turns frantic, puppy, and sensuous, *Bonnie & Clyde*'s interpretive dance numbers recall the celebrated German choreographer Pina Bausch. Since what Bonnie and Clyde precisely said to one another in their final days remains a mystery, using dance as a conveyor turns the scene's unspeakable emotions into a transfixed and urgent spectacle.

Though the dance sequences act as a modernizing device, that's where the contemporary allusions end. That isn't to say that the themes from *Bonnie & Clyde* don't resonate with present-day audiences — they certainly echo many of today's political and economic grievances, specifically the wealth disparity, the sham of the American Dream, and a general "stick-it-to-the-man" sensibility — but the heart of the play is simpler and rests on, well, matters of the heart.

Rob Hyn

Interpretive dance turns moments of unspeakable emotion into an urgent spectacle.

Peck's writing does an impressive job of clearing away the gauzy romanticism that has come to surround the couple's mythology and our own cultural understandings of romance, crime, and tragedy. The play is riveting throughout its eighty minutes, even when the couple engages in more mundane tasks like reading the paper or cleaning a wound, the whole atmosphere is pervaded by a sense of both exhilaration and doom. There's no fairy tale, after all. Bonnie and Clyde rob and kill people, and their relationship is fraught, laced with torment, insecurity, passion, abandonment, and a dwindling hope that their dreams may one day come true. At times, one wonders if the lovers might kill each other before the cops get to them. But at the same time, their grandiose declarations and willingness to die for each other is palpable and affecting. They seem far more jaded than their twenty-odd years should allow, but also childlike, as if they know they are role-playing the lives they'll never see come to fruition.

Underneath the guts and grit exterior are two troubled kids who want to be loved and famous. Estlack exudes a naturally intense demeanor, and he excels at making Clyde seem both lovable and menacing, teetering precariously between boyish excitement and his desire to riddle everything with bullets. As Bonnie, Trout is similarly short-fused. At times demure and petulant, she vacillates easily between shy insecurity ("Do you find me attractive?") and emotional toughness ("I got bullet holes for you, ain't that enough?"). Bonnie's gritty individuality is never subsumed by her paramour's swagger. If anything, she seems more threatening, more prone to violent outbursts than Clyde does, and proves this by threatening to kill Clyde.

Despite their doomed fate, there is much humor in the young felons' relationship (and for all their passion, a painfully awkward sex scene). Their domestic squabbling about grave plots — arguing the way a contemporary couple might at Trader Joe's — is morbidly funny. It does much to reveal the couple's humanity, and the play brings a devastating energy to the task of making Bonnie and Clyde's legend mortal once more. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

LECTURES & LIT

LECTURES

Disability at the Apology Lydia Brown, a disability rights activist, writer, and Bard who has been honored as a Champion of Change by the White House, will speak. Hosted by Bookstore, Fri., Sept. 20, 7-8:30 p.m. Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. Berkeley.edu.

An Evening in the Life of John Muir Robert Hanna, the great-great grandson of the famous conservationist, John Muir, will illustrate the many sides of Muir with family stories and previously unseen photos and writings. Thu., Sept. 19, 7-8:30 p.m., free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-527-4140, REI.com.

The Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities and Metros Are Fixing Our Broken Politics and Fragile Economy Leading the discussion will be Bruce Katz, who is also the founding director of the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program. Thu., Sept. 19, 12-2 p.m. David Brower Center, UC Berkeley Campus, Berkeley.

Randall Kennedy Discusses affirmative action and his book, *For Discrimination: Race, Affirmative Action, and the Law*. Fri., Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m. $7 for students, $12 general admission, Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-848-3227, HillsideClub.org.

Selecting the Right Plants for California's Future The Bay-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening Coalition in conjunction with the 2013 revisions to WUCOLS (Water Use Classifications of Landscape Species) are hosting this presentation. Thu., Sept. 19, 10-4 p.m. $80-$30, Craneway Pavilion, 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond, Craneway.com.

LITERARY EVENTS

Artist Salon: What We Talk About When We Talk About The Art World Inspired by the book *Art / Work* by Heather Darcy Bhandari and Jonathan Melber, the Artist Salon will focus on navigating your career as an artist, tailoring your trajectory and expanding the mythologies and realities of the art world today. Sat., Sept. 21, 11 a.m.-noon, free. Pro Arts Gallery, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, 510-763-4361, ProArtsGallery.org.

Christie Mendonca Presenting her new book, *Say the Magic Word*. Sun., Sept. 22, 11 a.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland, 510-339-8210, GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

David Sheppard Reads from his book, *Contagious Optimism*. Thu., Sept. 19, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-2226, Booksinc.net/Alameda.

Kevin Schmidt Reads from his memoir, *The Dirt Farm*. Mon., Sept. 23, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland, 510-339-8210, GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

David Corbett Reads from his new novel *Cultivator*. Sat., Sept. 21, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland, 510-339-8210, GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

Heroes, Dreamers, and Mischief Makers: An Evening of Art, Magic, and Storytelling Cassandra Cushing, Tim Everts, and Pam Fare share tales of gods, heroes, adventure, and delight. Magician Kevin Bourbeau will then perform and Berkeley artist Selma Arnold will draw illustrations as the [illegible] to the stories. Wed., Sept. 25, 7-8:30 p.m., $15. The Village Shops and Galleries, 10030 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-615-5881, www.TheVillageShopsandgalleries.com/

Jack Marshall and [illegible] Writers The poets read from their recent books of poems, *Spiral Trace* and *The [illegible] of Clouds*, Thu., Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2087, MoesBooks.com.

Lindsay Tyas McLeod Reads from the new young adult novel [illegible] *of the Crawford Wing*. Fri., Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8222, MrsDalloways.com.

Mary Wilson & David Beardsley The poets read from their works, followed by Sanna Wong's performance for [illegible] Friday Nights @ OMCA. Fri., Sept. 20, 5:30 p.m. [illegible], 2505 [illegible] Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible], [illegible]

Mike Polinotto and Anna Anthony Read from *The [illegible] Road*. Mon., Sept. 23, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-7777, Booksinc.net/Berkeley.

Omnidawn Night Poets Martha Ronk, Donald Revell, Daniel Tiffany, Sam Wilcox, [illegible] Read from their books. Fri., Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2087, MoesBooks.com.

People v. Huey Newton: The Real Trial of the Century? Judge [illegible] presents a [illegible] on Oakland of his book, *The Style the Shell*, [illegible] famous trials of the 20th century, and focusing on the trial of Huey P. Newton. Sat., Sept. 21, 3-4 p.m., free. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley, 510-525-0302, uucb.org.

Byron Williams Author, theologian, and pastor of Resurrection Community Church in Oakland, reads from his book, *1963: The Year of Hope & Hostility*. Tue., Sept. 24, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-7777, Booksinc.net/Berkeley.

Shirley Streshinsky & Patricia Klaus Read from *An Atomic Love Story: The Extraordinary Women in Robert Oppenheimer's Life*. Wed., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8222, MrsDalloways.com.

Sylvia Alvarez Reads from her biography *[illegible] The Life of Leonard [illegible]*. Thu., Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8222, MrsDalloways.com.

Teyana Aves Speaks about the book she contributed to, *No Ill Intent?! How the [illegible] Adversity [illegible] Adventures*. Thu., Sept. 19, 7 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 5604 Bay St., Emeryville, 510-547-0905, BarnesAndNoble.com.

Tiffany Denning Conversation with the 18-year-old author and the author of books, *Knight and Chessmate*. Sun., Sept. 22, 3-4 p.m. Union City Library, 34007 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City, 510-745-1400, ACLibrary.org.

Uniquely Yours: A Sacred Women's Guided Writing Workshop Author Peggy Simmons leads a workshop for writers of all levels and genres. [illegible] welcome. Fourth Sunday of every month. 7-8:30 p.m. $15-$25, [illegible]Writers.org. [illegible] Collective, 5270 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible], [illegible].

ZYZZYVA Fall Read, Release Party The award-winning San Francisco literary journal celebrates the release of its Fall issue with readings by four contributors, plus wine and snacks. Fri., Sept. 20, 7 p.m., free. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-9965, DieselBookstore.com.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Love Your Neighbors: Help End Gun Violence A conference to learn how Oakland groups are doing to end gun violence and to consider inspired responses. Keynote remarks, by Fania E. Davis, J.D. Ph.D. co-founder and Executive Director of Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth. Sat., Sept. 21, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., free. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Ave., Oakland, 510-834-4314.

PICKS

Like Me/Unlike Me: Re-imagining Women in Fiction

"For heaven's sake, what kind of question is that?" was acclaimed novelist Claire Messud's now-famous retort when she was asked in April by *Publisher's Weekly* about whether she would want to be friends with the sly main character of her new book, *The Woman Upstairs*. It was an uncommonly candid answer for the notoriously softball question-oriented ecosystem that is the pre-publication press interview, and out of Messud's palpable exasperation erupted a new debate about literature, women, and whether female characters are held to an unfair double standard when it comes to likeability. To that end, join a panel of five female novelists — Thaisa Frank, Nina Schuyler, Elizabeth Rosner, Joyce Thompson, and Elizabeth Stark — at Pegasus Books (2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) as they discuss whether contemporary literary fiction harbors a "bias against nuanced, fully-realized female characters," and the extent to which "female protagonists conform to deep-seated archetypes." — *Ellen Cushing*

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m., free. PegasusBookstore.com

Thaisa Frank

Discussion of 'The Faraway Nearby'

Book groups are kind of like exercise, or quitting smoking, or pretty much anything we do for self-betterment: A great idea in theory, but difficult to keep up in practice. Enter the One Night Stand series at Diesel (5433 College Ave., Oakland), which offers all the camaraderie and smart discussion of any book group, minus the commitment to actually read a book every month. This iteration will cover local author Rebecca Solnit's lyrical, thought-provoking, downright gorgeous new work of literary nonfiction, *The Faraway Nearby*, and will be led by Diesel's own Linda Genna. Like that other kind of one night stand, it promises an evening of no-strings-attached fun, except in this case you get whatever the opposite of next-day self-loathing is. — *E.C.*

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m., free. DieselBookstore.com

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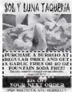
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Amy Liu's handmade dumplings may be the best in the East Bay

Chris Duffey

THE DUMPLING OF CHAMPIONS

Chinatown's new Tian Jin Dumplings is a tiny takeout window that serves fantastic northern Chinese "small eats."

By Luke Tsai

Dumplings were the convenient comfort food of my Chinese-American childhood — a freezer-ready after-school snack or lunch for a lazy Saturday. Years later, when I spent the tail end of my twenties living in Taipei, one of my favorite neighborhood spots was a place called Fatty Chou's, where five US dollars would buy two dozen pork dumplings (*jiaozi*) — dinner for two.

As ubiquitous as they were dirt-cheap, Taipei's dumpling houses occupied roughly the same culinary niche that's filled, in the Bay Area, by taquerias and inexpensive pizza joints. Here in the East Bay, there isn't much of a dumpling culture. Plenty of Chinese restaurants serve dumplings, but usually as an appetizer rather than the main course — often, it seems, as an afterthought. So I was excited to hear about Tian Jin Dumplings, a takeout window in Oakland's Chinatown that specializes in dumplings and other northern Chinese *xiaochi*, or "small eats."

The friendly owner, Amy Liu, hails from Tianjin, a city to the southeast of Beijing that's known — like much of northern China — for its heavily wheat-based cuisine: its dumplings, noodles, and buns of all shapes and sizes. But Liu's shop has more in common with a street stall than a full-service restaurant. The only seating is a couple of stools and two small plastic tables on the sidewalk. The entire menu consists of about six items, half of them will likely be sold out if you arrive after 1 p.m.

But what Tian Jin Dumplings lacks in amenities and breadth of offerings it makes up for in good old-fashioned deliciousness. The handmade dumplings, in particular, are the best I've had in Oakland — arguably the best in the East Bay.

Boiled dumplings — even good ones — are humble and utilitarian; they lack the sexiness of Shanghainese soup dumplings and the understated elegance of high-end shumai. They are also, in their way, the perfect convenience food: meat, vegetable, and starch all contained in one small, two- or three-bite bundle. Liu makes two versions of pork dumpling — one with cabbage and the other with Chinese chives — that serve fifteen to an order, which turns out to be just the right amount for lunch.

Tian Jin Dumplings

899 Franklin St., Ste. B, Oakland
510-459-6265
Hours: Wed.-Mon. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Reservations not accepted
Cash only

Sample Menu

Pork and Chive Dumplings (15)	$6.75
"Pancake Fruit"	$3.95
Smoked Egg	$0.50
Pork and Vegetable Bun	$0.65
Beef and Carrot Dumplings (50)	$19.65

Upon first taste, the pork-and-cabbage dumplings didn't seem like anything special. But their virtues started to become obvious about two or three dumplings in: their juiciness, the slight crunch of the vegetables, how the filling had just the right amount of ginger and scallion. The chive version was even better — wonderfully fragrant and made up of more chive than pork.

In both cases, the best part was the handmade wrappers, which were thin and delicate. None were ripped or stuck together, nor did they have the slimy texture you get at less careful restaurants. Each order came with a little tub of bracing black vinegar, the traditional dipping sauce in Tianjin.

Liu also does a brisk business in frozen dumplings, and I plan to keep my freezer well stocked henceforth. If you plan ahead, you can try one of the shop's unconventional specialty dumplings, which come fifty to an order and require at least a day's advance notice. The most interesting of these had a delicate flounder-and-celery filling with just a hint of white peppercorn heat and no "fishy" flavor to speak of. The finely chopped celery added an herbaceousness, as well as a lovely light-green hue.

But by far my favorite dumplings were the beef-and-carrot ones, which gushed with toasty sesame-oil-tinged juices when I bit into them — they were rich without being greasy, and savory enough that no sauce was needed.

Besides dumplings, Tian Jin Dumplings also sells a handful of other dough-based street snacks, including a few kinds of *bao*, or steamed buns. I wasn't enamored with the bargain-priced ($0.65) pork-and-vegetable bun, which I found a bit bland and dry — I prefer the juicier, oversized bao at Shan Dong, a couple blocks away. Sometimes Liu makes a chive-filled vegetarian version (which costs a nickel more), but it wasn't available during any of my visits.

Better than the bao, which tend to sell out by lunchtime, are Liu's savory baked *shaobing* — listed as "biscuits" on the menu. These are flaky, chewy, multi-layered breads that you can hold in one hand — the English muffin of Chinese cuisine, if you will, and perfect for making an improvised breakfast sandwich. You can get your shaobing with a smoked boiled egg, which Liu will slice in half and stuff inside the biscuit if you ask. I found the yolk a little bit dry, but the eggs — smoked with Chinese rock sugar — had a nice, subtle smoky flavor. One of these egg "sandwiches" is probably one of the tastiest $1 breakfasts in Oakland.

Truth be told, Asian street food is my favorite kind of breakfast, and my favorite breakfast item at Tian Jin Dumplings is the "pancake fruit" (a misleading translation; Liu had to clarify on the menu that it has "no fruit"). *Jianbing guozi* is the Tianjin variant on a popular savory Chinese street snack: a huge egg-coated mung-bean crepe that's brushed with soybean paste and, if you request it, chili sauce, then stuffed with Chinese fried cruller (the *guozi*, or "fruit"), crunchy pickled mustard stems, and fresh cilantro. The flavors are simple and homey, but so, so good. It's the perfect thing to warm you up on a chilly morning.

All of these Tianjin-style breakfast items would be even better washed down with a glass of fresh soymilk, northern China's morning beverage of choice, a decent version of which I've yet to find in the Bay Area. But for now, Liu is constrained by the tininess of her space. As it is, you might find me at Tian Jin Dumplings' tiny storefront a few mornings every week, picking up a *jianbing* with extra chili sauce. I can't think of too many finer ways to start a day. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

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WHAT THE FORK

WHERE TO BUY FRESHLY SLAUGHTERED CHICKEN

Plus: a unique commercial kitchen opens in Berkeley

By Luke Tsai

As focused as the East Bay's food-obsessed are on the quality of their meat, you don't hear too much talk about the issue of freshness — which is to say your typical Whole Foods or farmers' market customer is more likely to ask about a chicken's lineage or its diet than about when the food was killed.

So I was intrigued when I read a Chowhound discussion about Saba Live Poultry (845 Kennedy St.), which is located in a warehouse district in East Oakland. Here, in a Halal-certified facility that's relatively clean and well maintained, you can buy live chickens ($8-$14 each), geese ($35), guinea fowl ($20), pigeons ($10), and quail ($3). Fresh shipments come in a few times a week, and sometimes there are also rabbits ($15-$20) and lambs (which are butchered first and then sold by weight).

According to manager Amir Ali, the shop is part of a national chain, with many of the other franchises located on the East Coast. And while the Halal certification is a big selling point, Ali said his customers aren't exclusively Muslim. Indeed, the facility seems to be especially popular among Asians, perhaps because (to my knowledge) there isn't a comparable service offered in Chinatown or Oakland's other Asian-immigrant enclaves. As Ali put it, "Chinese people, they like the fresh chicken."

A note to readers who only eat impeccably sourced, local, pasture-raised animals: I cannot give Saba an unqualified recommendation. When I asked Ali where the animals came from, he said the company had farms all over — many of them, but not all, in the Los Angeles area. Beyond that, he didn't have much additional information.

As for freshness, though, I can vouch for that. Once you've picked the live chicken (or whatever animal) you want, one of the workers pulls it out and brings it to the back to be slaughtered according to traditional Halal guidelines, which are intended to minimize the animal's suffering. Ten minutes later, they'll hand you a plastic bag with your chicken inside — its blood drained and feathers plucked, the feet and giblets detached and stuffed back inside the carcass, the head still attached.

Look, if you're squeamish about seeing your dinner when it's alive, and if you don't want to take personal responsibility for deciding which chicken lives (for a while longer) and which one dies, this isn't the place for you.

That said, chicken doesn't get much fresher than a fowl that's slaughtered on-site while you wait. Following the advice of an amateur homesteader friend, I let mine rest in the fridge for a day (to let the rigor mortis wear off, lest I end up with a tough chicken) before roasting it. The final product was tasty enough. The meat had the dense, slightly chewy texture I associate with those lean, free-range birds that Chinese restaurants like to serve simply poached.

Saba Live Poultry isn't for the squeamish. Luke Tsai

Was it noticeably better than a reasonably high-quality chicken I might buy at, say, Berkeley Bowl? I wouldn't say so. But folks in Chinatown might disagree.

A New Kitchen for Food Start-Ups

A year ago Jonah Hendrickson first told me about his ambitious plans for The Berkeley Kitchens, a commercial kitchen facility that the real estate developer claimed would be the first of its kind: a 26,000-square-foot historic West Berkeley building filled with stand-alone kitchen units, each of them leased to some up-and-coming food entrepreneur. Participating food artisans would be able to avoid the hourly rental fees and inconvenient time slots offered by many conventional commercial kitchens. Even more importantly, they'd finally have a space they could truly call their own.

Now Hendrickson's plans are finally coming to fruition. Starting last week, The Berkeley Kitchens (2701 Eighth Street) is officially up and running. Initially slated to open in January, the build-out of the facility, which included a city-mandated seismic renovation, hit its share of roadblocks. As Hendrickson put it, "It was a big project — the first project of its kind — and we were all finding our way through."

There have been small tweaks along the way. The number of kitchen units has grown from twelve to fifteen. (As of this printing, all but four are under contract, and potential tenants are already negotiating lease terms for the remaining four, Hendrickson said.) A proposed certified dairy facility was scrapped. And, though Hendrickson had anticipated that a couple of mobile food vendors would sign up, the lack of dedicated parking big enough to fit a food truck proved to be a deal breaker.

That said, The Berkeley Kitchens now counts a number of well-known local food artisans among its tenants. The eleven businesses that have already signed leases include Baron Baking (the acclaimed bagelry), Morell's Bread, Nature's Express (a vegan fast-food restaurant in North Berkeley), and the Tasha DeSerio catering company (run by a former Chez Panisse cook).

The facility seems particularly well suited for food entrepreneurs who are somewhat established but aren't ready to buy an entire building of their own. It's a niche Hendrickson believes has long been largely underserved. ●

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

RESTAURANTS & CAFES

Oakland Chinese Restaurants

Ben's Restaurant
338 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-8332. There are many reasons you might not have heard of Ben's Restaurant — because it's a Chinese restaurant that caters, in large part, to non-Chinese; because of its location, tucked away in the Jack London produce district; because it's a cash-only place that closes at 2 p.m. and isn't open on the weekend. Here's what you need to know: For 25 years, chef-owner Ben Fung has served tasty, inexpensive Chinese food to a diverse, loyal customer base. The restaurant's crowning glories are its crunchy, surprisingly grease-free batter-fried chicken (an off-menu special available on Wednesdays only) and its house-made black-bean hot sauce. But really, much of the menu is great: luxurious, comforting shrimp and scrambled eggs over rice; chow mein and fried rice dishes that feature fresh, wok-charred vegetables; and more. Best of all, an entire meal will only run you about six bucks. $

Cafe 88
388 9th St., Oakland, 510-844-0651. This Hong Kong-style cafe, tucked inside the Pacific Renaissance Plaza, is one of the better cheap lunch spots in Oakland Chinatown. The service can be brusque and not-so-English friendly, but $5.50 will buy you a rice plate piled high with crisp-skinned roast pig or some of the most tender, succulent roast duck in town. The salted steamed chicken (lean and wholesome) is also good, served with a scallion-ginger dipping sauce. Meanwhile, one of the restaurant's best-kept secrets is the individual-portion hot pot available during dinner only. It may not be the best, or most sumptuous, hot pot option in Chinatown, but $13 buys an impressive spread of meat and seafood — a fine option when you can't pull together a big group for communal hot pot dining. $-$$

Chef Lau's
301 8th St., Oakland, 510-835-3288. Table of four for dinner? Might take awhile. Chef Lau's is packed with families — big families, loud and happy and sucking up noodles. This homey rough-around-the-edges Chinatown restaurant specializes in Cantonese seafood dishes like salt-and-pepper lobster and steamed rock cod, some of it straight from the tank, and succulent hot pots. $

Golden Lotus Vegetarian Restaurant
1301 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-893-0383. Though you'll find a lot of meat on the menu at Golden Lotus, every nugget of flesh is actually a skillful gluten facsimile. This Vietnamese and Chinese restaurant serves brightly flavored, fresh, inexpensive vegetarian fare. Many order the grilled "chicken," the Vietnamese noodle dishes, and the hot pot, or come at lunch for quick to-go combo plates. Golden Lotus is run by followers of Supreme Master Ching Hai, a Buddhist spiritual master and fashion designer. $

Gum Kuo
388 9th St., Oakland, 510-268-1288. Gum Kuo, which doubles as a takeout barbecue-duck joint and restaurant, gets a zero for decor, combining all the charm of a food court and a hole in the wall. But folks come here for homey Cantonese food, especially late at night. You'll find noodles on most of the tables, along with steamed rice rolls, hot pots, and the house special clay-pot rice (it's on the back page, in Chinese) cooked with Chinese sausage or chicken and mushrooms. And if you ask them nicely, the staff will help you pick out the good stuff. $

Hot Pot House
370-372 12th St., Oakland, 510-251-2668. At Hot Pot House, the sheer number of choices can be daunting for the novice. Start by picking one of six different soup bases — everything from the deceptively plain (but delicious) "house flavor" to the fiery Szechuan male flavor to several versions that feature Chinese medicinal herbs. Then, decide what you want to cook. The easiest option is to pick a pre-set combo and supplement it with a couple of extra items. The "funky" hot pot — which includes tripe, intestine, and pig's throat — appeals to the adventurous. Our favorite, the "village style" hot pot, comes with pork skin, fish balls, shrimp, and frozen tofu (super-spongy, perfect for soaking up the broth and dipping sauces). And aside from hot pot, the most-order dish is the wontons in red oil, which are spiked with the unique numbing heat of Szechuan peppercorns. $$

Legendary Palace
708 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-663-9188. Shiny and massive Legendary Palace wants to claim the title of Chinatown's swankiest restaurant. It comes close at dinner. The chef has a delicate touch with the superb Hong Kong-style seafood, much of it swimming until it gets ordered. The rest of the menu varies in quality, but you'll generally have luck with the roast meats and hot pots. The daytime dim sum is good as long as you can bear the chaotic bustle and long waits. $-$$

Lin Jia Asian Kitchen
3437 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-645-1820. Maria Lam worked in her parents' Chinese takeout restaurant in Hayward for fifteen years, biding her time until she could open her own shop using Mary's chickens, Niman beef, organic produce, and no MSG. Lin Jia is the result, a Chinese restaurant with globetrotting influences from Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and Thailand. Everything is fresh and handsomely prepared, and you won't feel the bloat of cheap takeout, but too-clean Lin Jia sometimes feels lacking in passion. Make sure to order the ethereal wonton soup and the Kou Kou, a deconstructed pork bun. $$

Nature Vegetarian Restaurant
1110 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-238-9688. The Chinese have a long and comfortable history of mock-meat consumption, harkening back to food served to alms-givers at Buddhist temples a thousand years ago. And diners craving vegetarian versions of their favorite Chinese dishes would be hard-pressed to find a better option than Nature Vegetarian Restaurant, where chef-owner Jian Liu, a devout Buddhist himself, makes all of the restaurant's gluten- and soy-based meat substitutes in-house. Menu highlights include the spectacularly crispy sesame "chicken" and stuffed eggplant that's batter-fried, shaped like a whole fish, and carved tableside. During off-peak hours, vegetarian versions of traditional dim sum items (roast pork buns, siu mai, etc.) are served. The dining room is clean and pleasant, and service is polite and reasonably English-friendly. $-$$

Restaurant Peony
388 9th St., Oakland, 510-286-8866. The flavors of Hong Kong are served with panache at this Oakland Chinatown purveyor of abalone soup, Muslim lamb with scallions and cardamom, chicken with double-fried vermicelli, tableside-carved duck, steamed seafood fresh from the fish tank, and other delicacies. Lunchtime dim sum is on the perfunctory side, but it's very popular. Large, elegant setting; service ranges from overbearing to nonexistent. $$

Shan Dong
328 10th St. #101, Oakland, 510-839-2299. One of the few restaurants in Chinatown to specialize in Northern Chinese cuisine, Shan Dong is also one of the neighborhood's best. Many of the dishes on its menu are familiar, but look for the chicken, seafood dishes, noodles, and cold meats (try the shredded pig's ear). And on some days the dumpling makers in the front window seem barely able to keep up with the demand. Shan Dong is also the only place in Chinatown to offer a Northern Chinese breakfast of crullers and soy milk. $-$$

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Pucquio
5337 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-7508 or Pucquio.com. According to chef Carlos Moreira, the concept behind this former pop-up kitchen is "contemporary Peruvian street food." But make no mistake, Oakland's first high-end Peruvian restaurant serves elegant, labor-intensive cuisine. You can see Moreira's skill in everything from the precise knife work on the refreshing cold quinoa salad to the pulpo al olivo, which features the heavy essence of olives distilled into something as airy and light as a cloud. The pescado al ajo (fried whole fish in garlic sauce) is the most wonderful, and soulful, of the entrees. But any conversation about Pucquio needs to begin and end with its cebiches, especially the spicy, multi-textured, perfectly balanced Mixto: raw shrimp, tender cubes of California sea bass, whole squid, soft yams, and, to top it all off, a fried shrimp head. It's the cebiche we'll use to judge all future cebiches. $$$

Amala's Cafe
1319 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-3003 or AmalasCafe.com. This tiny takeout lunch counter in the heart of downtown Oakland looks like just another generic deli. But there's more than meets the eye at Amala's. Amala Edmondson, the eponymous chef-owner, is Sri Lankan; her husband is Jamaican. Many of the most interesting food items come off the daily specials menu, which is an amalgam of those two cultural influences — one meat option and one vegetarian option, both priced at $7 available starting at around 11:30 a.m. The best of these, a plate of jerk chicken (falling-off-the-bone tender with enough heat to clear the sinuses) over Caribbean-style peas and rice, is only served on Tuesdays, but you'll always find something of interest: roti on Wednesdays, lamb curry on Thursdays, and coconut fish on Fridays. Also not to be missed: an excellent roasted-eggplant sandwich, Sri Lankan patties, and a different homemade cake, sold by the slice, Monday through Friday. $

The Star on Grand
3425 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-843-7827 or TheStaronGrand.com. This spinoff from Jon Gabl, Little Star Pizza co-founder and pizza recipe developer-in-chief, adds a full bar and sandwiches to the mini-chain's well-established formula. Really, though, the changes are slight. Though the thin-crust pizzas aren't half-bad, The Star's "star," so to speak, is still its signature Chicago-style deep-dish pizzas. Simply put, these are in a class of their own — because of the addition of cornmeal to the dough, which yields a crunchy, wonderfully textured crust; because of the sauce, which is chunky and just tart enough; and because of the layers of stretchy, high-quality mozzarella. Other notable menu items include the garlic bread (a "deconstructed" version, with whole roasted garlic cloves for spreading) and a selection of enjoyably unfussy salads. $$

Hutch Bar & Kitchen
2022 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-419-0022 or HutchOakland.com. It would have been easy for chef-owner David King to open his restaurant with a menu of greatest-hits familiar to even the most inexperienced Yankee: fried chicken, barbecue, and maybe a gumbo for good measure. Instead, Hutch strives to expand the lexicon of Southern food in the Bay Area: There are shrimp and grits, but also intensely cheesy grits paired with fried catfish and braised veal shank. In addition, Hutch serves rabbit Brunswick stew, bourbon-cured salmon, pimento cheese, raw oysters on the half-shell, and more than sixty American whiskeys. Don't miss the prix fixe Sunday Suppers. The gargantuan family-style plates are one of the best deals in town. $$-$$$

Lucky Three Seven
2808 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-780-6593 or LuckyThreeSeven.webs.com. At Lucky Three Seven, a tiny Filipino corner joint on Fruitvale Avenue, all day long there's a steady stream of mostly young folks picking up to-go orders of *lumpia* or chicken adobo, or enjoying their meal at one of the tables outside. Each day there are five or six different dishes, all of them laid out in big steam table trays, everything value-priced. Probably three-quarters of the dishes are stews or saucy braised meats; more than half involve pork. All are good with white rice. Highlights include the well-balanced adobo, the pork belly *tausi* (a fermented black bean sauce), and $1 "X-Large" *lumpia* (Filipino egg rolls), which are rolled fresh every morning and fried to order. $

Shanghai Restaurant
930 Webster St., Oakland, 510-465-0878. There's no mystery to the name: This hole-in-the-wall specializes in the cosmopolitan cuisine of that coastal Chinese city. Look over the case in back for a few cold plates to start your meal with, and then try such favorites as *xiao long bao* (Shanghai-style soup dumplings, which shoot out a burst of broth when you bite into them), crispy shredded eel, red-cooked meats, and Shanghai-style noodles. $-$$

Spices 3
369 12th St., Oakland, 510-625-8889. A Hong Kong action film of a restaurant, Spices 3 promises thrills on its Sichuan-Taiwanese menu, with items like "Spicy Eel Strips with *Flaming RED Oil*." Not to worry: the spiciness never reaches the nuclear-meltdown levels of Sichuan food, but dishes like fish fillet in explosive chile pepper, spicy numbing kidney and cumin lamb may rock your world. The room is as red as the food on your plate, and thronged with young diners and hip waitresses. Order the STINKY tofu if you dare. $$

Sun Hing Meat Market
380 8th St., Oakland, 510-836-1819. Purveyor of some of the best roast duck in Chinatown, along with a wide array of familiar and unfamiliar Chinese prepared meats, all on display. There are a few tables in back — just don't look at the floor — where you can sit and eat. The owner, who's a charmer, will serve you bowls of rice and whatever's freshest out of the oven. $

Yung Kee Restaurant
888 Webster St., Oakland, 510-839-2010. Two-story restaurant with a butcher in front selling roast pork, duck, and top-notch roast chicken. You can buy meat to go or, if you're not bothered by the low-rent decor, sit down and order simple but tasty Cantonese fare: roast meats, congee, stir-fried noodles, noodle soups, or rice plates. $

Yuyu Za Zang
3919 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-2288. Larry Yu, a Korean-born Chinese chef, opened this cheery yellow cafe on Telegraph to sell Chinese-Korean noodle dishes like his dad used to make — namely *jam pong*, a spicy noodle soup, and *ja jang myun*, black-bean sauce noodles beloved by children all over Korea. The appeal is all in Yu's thick, chewy house-made noodles. Yuyu's Chinese-Korean food is pretty standard fare, except for the show-stopping pork and vegetables in mustard sauce, a multi-layered platter of meat, vegetables, poached seafood, and bean-paste noodles. $ ●

Price Key
Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately: $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $25-$50; $$$$ — more than $50.

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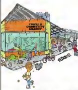

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Taste
The bars, clubs, and coffeehouses edition

Delight in the flavors of the East Bay with our semi-annual dining supplement, Taste. We'll survey the latest in culinary trends and print the entirety of our vast online restaurant guide, sorted by location. In this edition, we'll also include coverage of bars, clubs, and coffeehouses, highlighting trends and giving readers a detailed guide to the East Bay's dizzying array of places to enjoy a beverage and a show.

Publication Date **Sept. 25, 2013**

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Eats Off Broadway Featuring the flavors of Oakland's food culture. Street Market bulk goodies, face-painting, and more. Fridays. Continues through Oct. 11, free. Studio One Art Center, 365 45th St., Oakland. 510-597-5027. StudioOneArtCenter.net.

[illegible] Classics and Italian Wine-Tasting A biweekly wine tasting with proceeds [illegible] food Farmers. Fridays, 5-7:30 p.m., wine $1 per flight. Farmstead Cheeses & Wines, 6219 La Salle Ave., Oakland. 510-394-8480, FarmsteadCheesesAndWines.com.

Farmstead Wine Tasting Hosted by Farmstead's knowledgeable staff with all proceeds going to local schools. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m.; Saturdays, 2-6 p.m. $1 per flight. Farmstead Cheeses & Wines, 6219 La Salle Ave., Oakland. 510-394-8480. FarmsteadCheesesandWines.com.

Get Market Food Market Featuring food trucks, tents, tools, free other vendors including Scoop's, Peter's Kettle Corn, [illegible] Chicken Box, Kau Kau Corner (Hawaiian-Filipino comfort foods), and Soulah's Beach Foods (coffee and drip truck). Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free. College of Alameda, 555 Market Ave., Alameda. 510-522-7221. [illegible]

Off and Grid With wine tours, drinks for sale, music, kids' activities, free Friday museum admission Fridays, 5-9 p.m., free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

Rooftop Wine and Beer Fest First vegan wine and beer festival in the Bay Area with local, organic, and vegan breweries and wineries, and you can pair with plant-based food provided by Bay Area vendors. Sat., Sept. 21, 1-5 p.m. $40. Kaiser Center Rooftop Garden, 300 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, KaiserCenterRoofGarden.com.

September Market Rooftop Taste locally Farmstead Market [illegible], free ones. Pet chickens, take a free urban farming workshop; free vote on the Best East Bay honey. Sat., Sept. 21, 12-5 p.m. free. [illegible] 1441 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. [illegible].

Barter Food Tuesdays With food trade-inspired small plates served in a restaurant setting. Tuesdays, $3-10, 800-551-7286. Paragon Restaurant, 41 Barter St., [illegible] 510-549-8585, ParagonRestaurant.com.

Taste of Berkeley Ale [illegible] to their vendors with disabilities. Food, wine and beer from local vendors will be sold. Sat., Sept. 21, 12-5 p.m. $30; vendors purchase $40 at the door. Cedar Rose Park, 1300 Arch St., Berkeley. 510-981-6663. CI.Berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=12072.

Tonic Tasting Learn more home tonic herbs with a table of snack goodies for afternoon to try. Sat., Sept. 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden, 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2385, JuliesTea.com.

Vintage Berkeley Studio Tasting Try and vote for $5 at both the Vine St. and College Ave. stores. Check their Facebook notice on the day for details on what dessert will be poured that day. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m. $5. Vintage Berkeley, 2113 Vine St., Berkeley. 510-665-8600.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables plus family favorites. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. PCFMA.com. Alameda Farmers' Market, Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

BAHIA Farm Fresh Choice Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in diverse neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 2-3 p.m. free. 510-548-1736. EcologyCenter.org. Bay Area Hispano Institute for Advancement, 1718 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-525-1463, BAHIAinc.org.

Bayfair Center Farmers' Market Fresh produce goodies, by [illegible] organic, free specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., and Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-357-6000, ShopBayfair.com.

FFC Farm Fresh Choice Oakland Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m. free. 510-548-1704, EcologyCenter.org. Berkeley Youth Alternatives, 1255 Allston Wy., Berkeley. 510-845-9010. BYAOnline.org.

El Market a Crop Swap Bring your unused garden produce to swap with your neighbors at 2932 May Rd., Richmond. Tuesdays. Continues through Sept. 30.

Fruitvale Farmers' Market With locally grown and produced fruit, vegetables, baked goods, and more. Market WIC and EBT. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 800-125-6929. Fruitvale BART Station, 34th Ave. and 12th St., Oakland.

Grand Lake Farmers' Market A weekly atmosphere with more than 75 produce, specialty foods, and arts and craft vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and 800-897-3276. SplashPad.org/farmersmarket.html. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275. [illegible]

Hayward City Hall Farmers' Market A farmers' market featuring locally made foods, free produced foods from more than 25 farms and locally food purveyors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. 800-897-3276. AgriculturalInstitute.org. Hayward City Hall, 777 B St., Hayward. 510-583-4000, CI.Hayward.CA.US.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market With vendors selling locally grown California produce at the direct entrance to the hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and PCFMA.com. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh, all-organic fruit and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. PCFMA.com. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a nursery, fresh flowers, an organic cheesemaker, bee products, fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, butters, bread, cheese, fresh pasta, and Oaxacan cuisine. The market also hosts live music and entertainment. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 925-847-0801, KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. Oakland Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Montclair Village Farmers' Market Featuring organic produce from [illegible] foods. Free parking in Village details at the top of La Salle Avenue. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. MontclairVillage.com/farmers_market.html. Montclair Village, La Salle and Moraga Aves., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market With Market specialty foods, all-organic produce, and more for sale along with special programs and events. WIC/free EBT accepted. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

[illegible] Children's Hospital Farmers' Market Eat and WIC okay. Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m. free. 510-295-7857. PhatBeetsProduce.org. Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, 747 52nd St., Oakland.

North Oakland Phat Beets Farmers' Market With a healthy cafe, ornamental kitchen space, seasonal organic produce from Bay Area farms, and free market goods. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. PhatBeetsProduce.org. Phat Beets Mandela Farmers Market, 542 Stanford Ave., Oakland.

Old Oakland Farmers' Market Oakland Market. Market sells free other organic foods, along with plenty of samples. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Old Oakland Farmers Market, 9th St. between Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. UrbanVillageOnline.com/markets/old-oakland.

Market and Jack London Market Square Farmers' Market With seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, pastries, cut flowers, specialty foods, yoga classes, live foods, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., and PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, Broadway and Water St., Oakland.

More Listings Online
Find lots more food listings at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Richmond Crop Swap Bring your extra garden produce to swap with your neighbors. Mondays, 6-8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30, free. Richmond Public Library, 325 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond. 510-620-6561, CI.Richmond.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=106.

Richmond Farmers' Market With fresh locally grown fruit, fish, shellfish, baked goods, free other produce. WIC and SNAP accepted. Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., free. RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. [illegible] Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Richmond Main Street Farmers' Market With fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, flowers, and a range of other agricultural and culinary products, from local farmers. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Oct. 30, free. 510-236-4560. RichmondMainStreet.org. Nevin Plaza, 12th Street and Nevin Avenue, Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh and organic produce, Market specialty foods, and more for sale, plus garden programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-5100, CI.Berkeley.ca.us.

South Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh produce and other food for sale. Tuesdays, 2-6:30 p.m. South Berkeley Farmers Market, Adeline free 63rd St., Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

Temescal Farmers' Market California vendors. Market offer Alameda produce, dried fruits free nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods and locally caught fish, fresh-cut flowers and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. 510-745-7100. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and Market Oakland, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. and 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market, Derby and Milvia streets, Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

Youth UpLift Farm Stand The fresh fruits based farmers, featuring produce from regional farmers and others based gardens, along with dry goods, free nutrition-related products. At 7101 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Mondays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. FoodCommunityCulture.com. ●

PICK

Yoga Potluck

After two all-devoured dogs, The US Department of Health and Human Services has declared September National Yoga Month. Bring a dish to share with flexibly like-minded folks as Adeline Yoga Studio (3320 Adeline St., Berkeley) celebrates this annual observation with a community potluck and film screening. All are welcome to join the potluck; bring your own plate and utensils if possible. Stay after dinner to watch *Sita Sings the Blues*, Nina Paley's poignantly funny full-length animated feature detailing the Hindu epic known as the Ramayana. *— Anneli Rufus*

Saturday, Sept. 21, 6 p.m., free. AdelineYoga.com.

MOVIES

POSTCAROS FROM HERE

Land of the hooked (*Thanks for Sharing*), home of the brave (C.O.G.)

By Kelly Vance

Thanks for Sharing's saving grace is its sharp writing.

Adam (Mark Ruffalo) can't relax in a hotel room unless he gets housekeeping to remove the TV set. Mike (Tim Robbins) has remained faithful to his wife Katie (Joely Richardson) but he vents his considerable frustration by fighting with his irresponsible son Danny (Patrick Fugit). Compulsive peeper/groper Neil (Josh Gad) has a tough time with subways. Dede (the singer Pink) hits on old boyfriends the way some people binge on doughnuts. They're all sex addicts in Stuart Blumberg's surprisingly bright *Thanks for Sharing*.

"Surprisingly" because frankly we don't expect much from any movie that features characters sitting in a circle, confessing their sins. How can a filmmaker breathe new life into a shopworn narrative subgenre like the group-therapy comedy? By stocking the cast of sufferers and their associates with talented actors, and having the characters say meaningful, non-clichéd dialogue every chance they get. That happens to be the specialty of Blumberg, co-writer of *The Kids Are All Right*, who cooked up the *Sharing* screenplay with Matt Winston for his directorial debut.

The marquee matchup between Ruffalo's Adam and his new girlfriend Phoebe (Gwyneth Paltrow) is a pleasure to watch, perhaps the most naturally appealing, organically developed love story of the year even though it occupies no more than half the movie. True to the touchy-feely conventions of the "recovery" genre, Phoebe happens to be a double mastectomy breast cancer survivor, but that's not the reason why we can wholeheartedly relate to this urban couple. Maybe it's the way Adam carefully tiptoes into the relationship, desperately not wanting his hope for redemption to slip away. Or more likely it's the way Phoebe breaks down and sobs in the midst of stressful on-again off-again give and take between them. Wounded warrior Adam, an environmentalist by profession, must deal with his golddigger unhinged former bed buddies, outcall rent-a-dates, ubiquitous Internet porn, etc. But Phoebe's fears emanate from within herself. Paltrow and Ruffalo carry the film. We could easily be satisfied with them as the only protagonists, but this cross section of New York's emotionally needy has a range of flavors.

Robbins' "Big Mike," a building contractor who's been clean for years and is now Adam's group sponsor, has a tipping point of his own: his prodigal son Danny, who comes back to live with his folks after years of drifting. Alcohol, pills, and issues of trust enter into it, but as with Phoebe and Adam it's the woman who provides the grounded strength everyone needs — Richardson's no-nonsense Katie, Mike's rock of salvation. The shared issue for all concerned is true intimacy, as opposed to the easy forgettable one-night-stand variety. Big Mike has it made and doesn't even realize it.

Even an ordinary, maudlin, shared affliction scenario (which this is not) needs the occasional comic relief. Here, it's Neil, an infantile emergency-room doctor with an itchy trigger finger. Every time he walks down the street or the hospital corridor he waggles his digit in the direction of the nearest babe. That gets him into terrible scrapes, and then he lies about his "progress" at the group get-togethers. To cure his compulsions the flabby doc takes up city cycling and makes a fool of himself. When he's especially down he visits his mother, played by the always pitch-perfect Carol Kane. What Neil evidently needs is a tough gal like recovering nymphomaniac Dede, with her platinum hair and rough riding skills, to force him to walk straight and throw away his porn collection. Of course, we've been laughing at/cringing with characters like these for years in feel-good dependency dramas — they're corny and sentimental but undeniably human. Actors obviously love playing them. The saving grace in *Thanks for Sharing* is Blumberg's and Winston's writing. You can get away with anything if the writing is sharp.

Against this panorama of lovably weak individuals, it takes something special to stand out. Actress Emily Meade, in the role of Adam's ex-squeeze Becky, has enough high-octane sexual vitriol in her to power a spin-off. When she strolls up to Adam and Phoebe one night in a restaurant and intrudes on their love feast, the entire movie stops and holds its breath. Later, when Adam temporarily has a relapse and lets Becky back in, the ensuing psychodramatic kinkiness begs for a further plot line, but there is none. No time for Becky. We grownups have to accept that we can't realistically have everything our gaze happens to fall upon — sex, potato chips, Oxycontin, bourbon. Or, in the case of this honestly heartwarming multi-character study, more face time with the inhabitants. We'd probably be disappointed with the rest of their lives anyway.

Thanks for Sharing

Directed by Stuart Blumberg. With Mark Ruffalo and Gwyneth Paltrow. Opens Friday

C.O.G.

Directed by Kyle Patrick Alvarez. With Jonathan Groff and Denis O'Hare. Opens Friday

When we first meet David (Jonathan Groff) on the Greyhound bus heading West, we instantly recognize him as a classic fish out of water. With his Yale sweater, his copy of *On the Origin of the Species* and the preppy/patrician way he addresses his fellow passengers — a prized collection of crazies — tenderfoot David is cruising for a terrific bruising. We wouldn't be surprised at all to see him dumped by his girlfriend, sleeping in a barn, nearly raped by a new acquaintance, or mockingly called "Mr. Einstein."

C.O.G., filmmaker Kyle Patrick Alvarez' tantalizing adaptation of an essay by David Sedaris, takes the picaresque concept into some eccentric territory. The things that "faggy little white boy" learns while wandering the Oregon countryside spring from a rich vein of American literature. Twain passed through here, and Kerouac, and Albert Brooks and Kelly Reichardt. Alvarez and Sedaris populate the deceptively peaceful-looking landscape with appropriately disgruntled characters for our hero to interact with: an apple grower (Dean Stockwell), a group of Mexican field hands, a weary fruit packer (Dale Dickey), a forklift operator with a collection of dildos (Corey Stoll), a bible-thumping family, and a couch-surfing war veteran (Denis O'Hare) who's banking his future on a stock of ugly jade wall clocks nobody wants to pay $100 for.

None of these people especially like David. He comes from a different planet. The director gives his road trip an unrelenting tone of alienation. Actor Groff wears it with a squished-turd expression on his face. This America takes some getting used to. Sedaris and Alvarez are just getting warmed up in the indie-movie game. It'll be interesting to see where they pop up next, either singly or in collaboration. ●

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by J.R. Jones (J.J.), Ben Sachs (B.S.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com.

OPENING

C.O.G. The misadventures of a [illegible] Yale student named David (Jonathan Groff), spending his vacation [illegible] picking apples in Oregon, get the full indie treatment in director Kyle Patrick Alvarez' intriguing adaptation of a David Sedaris essay. [illegible] especially when he interacts with the [illegible] locals — Dean Stockwell, Corey Stoll, Dale Dickey, and Denis O'Hare, the latter as a [illegible] with a penchant for peddling ugly wall clocks made of jade. [illegible] Alvarez has a talent for dialogue and an eye for the absurdity of the mundane. (98 min.) (K.V.)

Herb & Dorothy 50x50 [illegible] Megumi Sasaki's sequel to her charming 2008 documentary *Herb & Dorothy* follows up on the Vogels' plan to place more than 4,000 pieces of [illegible] contemporary art [illegible] collected for years and [illegible] their jam-packed Manhattan apartment [illegible] museums [illegible] (K.V.)

[illegible] (86 min.) (K.V.)

Little Mermaid Sing-Along [illegible] special engagement theatrical [illegible] the Disney film about the mermaid [illegible] concert, with an interactive [illegible]

Museum Hours In Vienna, a lonely [illegible] (Mary Margaret O'Hara) wanders into the Kunsthistorisches Art Museum [illegible] Johann (Bobby Sommer), one of the guards. [illegible] (107 min.) (K.V.)

Prisoners Keller Dover (Hugh Jackman) faces a parent's worst nightmare when his [illegible] daughter, Anna, and [illegible] The only [illegible] investigation, Detective Loki (Jake Gyllenhaal), arrests the driver (Paul Dano), [illegible] (153 min.)

Salinger Filmmaker Shane Salerno [illegible] the life of famously reclusive author J.D. Salinger, author of *The Catcher in the Rye*.

Thanks for Sharing [illegible] Mark Ruffalo, Tim Robbins, Pink, and Josh Gad, supported by [illegible] Gwyneth Paltrow, Joely Richardson, and Patrick Fugit. They exist in a New York [illegible] with temptations, and [illegible] *The Kids Are All Right* [illegible] with Matt Winston [illegible] Laughs all around. [illegible] (112 min.) (K.V.)

ONGOING

[illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket buying at EastBayExpress.com, or by scanning the code below

WEDS SEPT 25 – SUN SEPT 29

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PREMIERES:

Bikini Kill
le tigre

The Punk Singer WEDS 9/25 @ 8PM

THE DIRTIES – SAT 9/28 @ 7PM

PURGATORIO – SUN 9/29 @ 6:30 PM

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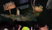
WEDS SEPT 25: GRAND LAKE THEATER
CITIZEN KOCH, 6PM
THE PUNK SINGER, 8PM*
*Filmmaker in attendance

THUR SEPT 26 B-SIDE BBQ
3303 San Pablo Ave
FILMMAKER MINGLE,
BEST OF LOCAL SHORTS, 8PM

FRI SEPT 27- THE HUMANIST HALL
390 – 27th Street
DEATH GRIP, 7PM*
*Filmmaker in attendance
MONSTER WITHIN OUR SHORTS, 9PM

SAT SEPT 28 THE HUMANIST HALL
HELLA TIGHT SHORTS, 2PM
LOCALS IN SHORTS, 4PM
THE DIRTIES, 7PM
THE INSTITUTE, 9:15PM*
*Filmmaker in attendance

SUN SEPT 29. THE HUMANIST HALL
ODDITIES. SHORTS, 12PM
TOASTMASTER, 2PM
LE BONHEUR: TERRE PROMISE, 4PM
PURGATORIO, 6:30 PM*
*Filmmaker in attendance



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GRAND LAKE TREATER: 3200 GRAND AVE, OAKLAND
HUMANIST HALL: 290 – 27TH STREET, OAKLAND

B-SIDE BBQ
WATERFRONT
EAST BAY EXPRESS

agent. Directed by Baltasar Kormákur; starring also Mark Wahlberg. (109 [illegible]

20 Feet From Stardom [illegible] Morgan Neville's masterful [illegible] on the golden age [illegible] Merry Clayton [illegible] Darlene Love [illegible] Mick Jagger [illegible] Bruce Springsteen [illegible] (90 min.) [illegible]

Afternoon Delight [illegible] (Kathryn Hahn) [illegible] Juno Temple [illegible] (98 min.) [illegible]

Blue Jasmine [illegible] Woody Allen [illegible] Cate Blanchett [illegible] Sally Hawkins [illegible] Bobby Cannavale [illegible] Andrew Dice Clay [illegible] Louis C.K. [illegible] (98 min.) [illegible]

The Conjuring [illegible] (Lili Taylor) [illegible] Patrick Wilson [illegible] Vera Farmiga [illegible] (112 min.) (KLY)

Elysium [illegible] Matt Damon [illegible] Jodie Foster [illegible] Neill Blomkamp [illegible] Sharlto Copley [illegible] William Fichtner [illegible]

The Family [illegible] Robert De Niro [illegible] Michelle Pfeiffer [illegible] Tommy Lee Jones [illegible] (The Fifth Element) [illegible] (KLY)

[illegible] BART police in the early hours of New Year's Day, 2009 [illegible] Ryan Coogler [illegible] Michael B. Jordan [illegible] (85 min.) (KLY)

Getaway Though he used to race cars for a living, Brent Magna (Ethan Hawke) [illegible] (Jon Voight) [illegible] (Selena Gomez) [illegible] (84 min.)

[illegible] Three [illegible] go out for a night of fun during their college experience. (107 min.)

The Grandmaster The story of the martial arts [illegible] (Tony Leung Chiu Wai) who taught the Wing Chun style of kung fu to Bruce Lee. (130 min.)

In a World... A vocal coach (Lake Bell) [illegible] (93 min.)

Insidious Chapter 2 [illegible] Lambert family, Renai (Rose Byrne) and Josh (Patrick Wilson) are ready for their lives to return to normal [illegible] (105 min.)

Jobs Ashton Kutcher [illegible] Apple [illegible] Joshua Michael Stern [illegible] Josh Gad [illegible] Steve Wozniak [illegible] (122 min.) (KLY)

Lee Daniels' The Butler The Precious filmmaker [illegible] Forest Whitaker [illegible] Oprah Winfrey [illegible] Martin Luther King Jr. [illegible] Malcolm X [illegible] Cecil Gaines (Forest Whitaker) who served seven US Presidents [illegible] Danny Strong [illegible] Terrence Howard, David Oyelowo, Cuba Gooding Jr., Lenny Kravitz, Vanessa Redgrave, John Cusack (as Richard Nixon), Alan Rickman (Ronald Reagan), Jane Fonda (Nancy Reagan), Liev Schreiber (Lyndon Johnson), Robin Williams (Dwight D. Eisenhower), et al. [illegible] (132 min.) (KLY)

One Direction: This Is Us [illegible] "X-Factor's" Simon Cowell [illegible] Niall Horan, Zayn Malik, Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson and Liam Payne [illegible] Filmmaker Morgan Spurlock [illegible] Martin Scorsese [illegible] (95 min.)

Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters A sequel to [illegible] The Sea of Monsters [illegible] (106 min.)

Populaire A French comedy [illegible] Rose Pamphyle (Déborah François) [illegible] Romain Duris [illegible] (The Artist) [illegible] (111 min.) (KLY)

Riddick Left for dead on a sun-scorched planet, fugitive Riddick (Vin Diesel) fights for survival

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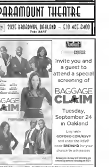
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against a few predators more lethal than any human he has yet encountered, his only hope for escape is to activate an emergency beacon that brings with it a different problem: mercenaries. The first ship carries an especially violent and lethal group; the second is led by a man from Riddick's past. With time running out, Riddick realizes that neither group will leave without his head as a trophy. (119 min.)

Short Term 12 A supervisor (Brie Larson) at a group home for at-risk teens connects with a new resident (Kaitlyn Dever) while facing a personal crisis of her own. (96 min.)

Shuddh Desi Romance Lovers try to sort out love and intimacy. (141 min.)

The Spectacular Now An unusual, bookish teenager (Shailene Woodley) begins dating the charming, freewheeling high-school senior (Miles Teller) who awoke on her lawn after a night of heavy partying. (95 min.)

This Is the End Comedy about a group of celebrities contending with the apocalypse. Directed by Evan Goldberg and Seth Rogen, written by Rogen, Goldberg, and Jason Stone; starring Rogen, Jonah Hill, James Franco, Mindy Kaling, and Emma Watson, all as themselves. (107 min.)

The Way Way Back Better-than-average coming-of-age dramedy earns points for the dialogue by writing/directing partners Nat Faxon and Jim Rash (*The Descendants*), as befuddled fourteen-year-old Duncan (Liam James) works his way through a potentially horrible beach-town summer in the company of his mom (Toni Collette), her bullying new boyfriend (Steve Carell), and the boyfriend's snooty teen daughter (Zoe Levin). Luckily for Duncan, there's Water Wizz amusement park with its boss (Sam Rockwell at full throttle), and the pretty next-door girl (AnnaSophia Robb). Adolescence should be so sweet. The romping cast also includes scene-stealer Allison Janney and Amanda Peet. Filmmakers Faxon and Rash turn up, winningly, as Water Wizz employees. (103 min.) (K.V.)

We're the Millers It goes on just a bit too long and seriously loses its nerve at the end, but this bittersweet comic road trip's fabulous dialogue and timing are more fun than a bong full of Jack Herer. Small-time weed dealer Jason Sudeikis gets in a bind and is forced to enlist a pole-dancer (Jennifer Aniston), a runaway teen (Emma Roberts), and an adorably innocent neighbor kid (Will Poulter) to pose as his straight-arrow "family" in smuggling an RV loaded with Mexican marijuana across the border to Denver. Along the way, director Rawson Marshall Thurber and four (count 'em) writers discover true [illegible]. When you show us a tarantula hiding in a [illegible] in the first act, it will definitely pop up later. Choice character acting by a crowd, including Ed Helms, Nick Offerman, and Kathryn Hahn. (110 min.) (K.V.)

The Wizard of Oz: An IMAX 3D Experience When a tornado rips through Kansas, Dorothy (Judy Garland) and her dog, Toto, are whisked away in their house to the magical land of Oz. They follow the Yellow Brick Road toward the Emerald City to meet the Wizard, and en route they meet a Scarecrow (Ray Bolger) that needs a brain, a Tin Man (Jack Haley) missing a heart, and a Cowardly Lion (Bert Lahr) who wants courage. The wizard asks the group to bring him the broom of the Wicked Witch of the West (Margaret Hamilton) to earn his help.

The Wolverine Hugh Jackman brings on a preposterously rugged seriousness to the role of the title Marvel Comics superhero, a rebellious immortal who journeys to Japan and gets caught up in a ninjas-vs.-yakuza war over Mariko (Tao Okamoto), the granddaughter of the man Wolverine saved from the Nagasaki A-bomb blast at the end of WWII. (Got all that?) Several, including his elfin "bodyguard" Yukio (Rila Fukushima), all love him, but the only one the comic [illegible]

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SHORT TERM 12

C.G.G

[illegible] (126 min.) (K.V.)

The World's End The UK's Shaun in the Dead gang — director Edgar Wright, writer-actors Simon Pegg and Nick Frost — are back for an agreeably zany variation on the male-bonding comedy: a group of middle-aged guys try to re-create the epic pub crawl of their youth. The title refers to the twelfth and last pub on the crawl, not necessarily to the [illegible] happenings in Wright and Pegg's screenplay. If your idea of irresistible entertainment is watching a squad of [illegible] Englishmen being chased by sinister robots [illegible], [illegible]. Co-starring Eddie Marsan, Paddy Considine, Martin Freeman, and Rosamund Pike. (109 min.) (K.V.)

You're Next The Davisons, an upper-class family and extremely wealthy — but also estranged. In an attempt to mend their broken family ties, Aubrey (Barbara Crampton) and Paul (Rob Moran) Davison decide to celebrate their wedding anniversary by inviting their four children and their children's significant others to their weekend estate. The celebration gets off to a rocky start, but when [illegible] assailants [illegible] suddenly [illegible], the Davisons must pull together or die. (94 min.)

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

[illegible] (122 min., 2008). In [illegible] with English subtitles (UC Berkeley Barrows Hall, 3:00)

[illegible]: The Harvest Sea (110 min., 2011). In [illegible] with English subtitles (UC Berkeley [illegible], 6:00)

The Act of Killing (116 min., 2012). (The New Parkway, Oakland, 6:30)

Sorcerer (121 min., 1977). Dark Matters: The Films of William Friedkin (UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley 7:00)

The Possessed (1[illegible] min., 2013). (Rialto Cinemas Elmwood, 7:00)

Cobra Woman (71 min., 1944). (The Magick Lantern, Point Richmond, 7:30)

The Breakfast Club (97 min., 1985). (UA

[illegible] 7:00)

[illegible] Midnight (100 min., 2012). (Parkway, 9:30)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Accattone (117 min., 1961). Pier Paolo Pasolini (BAM/PFA, 7:00)

Monsters University (100 min., 2013). Presented by ASUC SUPERB (UC Berkeley, Wheeler Auditorium, 7:00)

[illegible] (114 min., 1958). Paramount Movie Classics (Paramount Theatre, Oakland, 8:00)

This Is Spinal Tap (82 min., 1984). New Parkway Cult Night (Parkway, 10:30)

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

[illegible] (81 min., 1970). Martial Arts Matinee with [illegible] Arts (Parkway, 2:00)

Cruising (102 min., 1980). Dark Matters: The Films of William Friedkin (BAM/PFA, 6:30)

Killer Joe (102 min., 2011). Dark Matters: The Films of William Friedkin (BAM/PFA, 8:50)

The Room (99 min., 2003). ([illegible] Oakland, midnight)

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FRI-SUN 12:30 3:45 7:00 10:00
MON-THUR 3:45 7:00 10:00

THE FAMILY (R)
FRI-SUN 1:30 4:30 7:20 9:35
MON-THUR 4:30 7:20 9:35

SALINGER (PG13)
FRI-SUN 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
MON-THUR 4:15 7:15 9:45

THE WORLD'S END (R) (ENDS TUES)
FRI-SUN 3:15 7:35
MON-TUE 7:35

FRUITVALE STATION (R) (ENDS TUES)
FRI-SUN 12:00 4:00 6:00 9:45
MON-TUE 4:00 6:00 9:45

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[illegible]
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

The [illegible] (95 min., 1970). (Rialto Cinemas Elmwood, 12:30)

Tree of Life (139 min., 2011). [illegible] (Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 3:00)

Call Me Kuchu (87 min., 2012). Presented by Spectrum Queer Media (Parkway, 3:00)

The Gospel According to St. Matthew (137 min., 1964). Pier Paolo Pasolini (BAM/PFA, 5:00)

7 Boxes (100 min., 2012). Presented by CineMás SF & San Francisco Latino Film Festival. In Spanish and Guarani with English subtitles (La Peña Cultural Center, Berkeley 5:00)

Revenge of the Creature (82 min., 1955). [illegible] Theatre (Parkway, 6:00)

[illegible] (100 min., 2012). Presented by CineMás SF & San Francisco Latino Film Festival. In Portuguese, [illegible] with English subtitles (La Peña Cultural Center, Berkeley, 7:00)

Une Femme Mariée (94 min., 1964). (The Lantern, Berkeley 7:30)

The Rainmaker (120 min., 1956). The Man Who Wasn't There: Wendell Corey, Actor (BAM/PFA, 7:40)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Playground Film Festival (105 min., 2013). Six new films by Bay Area filmmakers and writers, adapted from short plays from the Best of PlayGround. (Rialto Cinemas Elmwood, 6:00)

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PRISONERS
[illegible] R
[illegible]

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LEE DANIELS' THE BUTLER
[illegible] PG-13
[illegible]

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[illegible]

[illegible]
C.O.G.
[illegible] NR

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SALINGER
[illegible] PG-13

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[illegible] Girl (80 min., 2006). In [illegible] with English subtitles (UC Berkeley Dwinelle Annex, 6:30)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Far From Afghanistan (121 min., 2012). Committed Cinema: John Gianvito and Paul Chan (BAM/PFA, 7:00)

Portraits in Drama (103 min., 1979). (UC Berkeley, International House, 7:00)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Profit Motive and the Whispering Wind (58 min., 2007). Committed Cinema: John Gianvito and Paul Chan (BAM/PFA, 7:00)

The Way I [illegible] to Yosemite (35 min., 2013). Presented by Royal Coffee (Parkway, 7:00)

[illegible] (116 min., 2013). Counter-Intelligence Series Screening (Humanist Hall, Oakland, 7:30)

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THANKS FOR SHARING (R)
[illegible]
INSIDIOUS: CHAPTER 2 (PG-13)
[illegible]
THE WAY WAY BACK (PG-13)
[illegible]
SHORT TERM 12 (R)
[illegible]

PIEDMONT
4186 Piedmont Ave. at 41st, Oakland
[illegible]
THANKS FOR SHARING (R)
[illegible]
BLUE JASMINE (PG-13)
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LEE DANIELS' THE BUTLER (PG-13)
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THE SPECTACULAR NOW (R)
[illegible]
WE'RE THE MILLERS (R)
[illegible]
FRUITVALE STATION (R)
[illegible]
IN A WORLD... (R)
[illegible]
AUGUST? (NR)
[illegible]
POPULAIRE (R)
[illegible]
Screening Lounge
6:10 and 9:30 are 21+ only
THE FAMILY (R)
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FRI 9.20 9:00PM
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VICTOR KRUMMENACHER (CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN)
CASEY NEILL & THE NORWAY RATS
NEW AMERICAN FARMERS

MISSION CREEK OAKLAND FESTIVAL
SAT 9.21 9:00PM ADV TIX INDIE-FOLK & AMERICANA
DEAD CAT HAT
THE NEW THOREAUS
THIRTEEN BUTTON TROUSERS
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SUN 9.22 4:00PM ALL AGES
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MUSIC

LOTTA HEAVEN, LOTTA HELL

Virtuoso guitarist Jason Becker was supposed to be a star. Then the unthinkable happened

By Kathleen Richards

By all accounts, Jason Becker was supposed to be a star — or, at least, a very famous guitar player. The Richmond native began playing at age five. By sixth grade he was covering Bob Dylan at his school talent show, and not long after he was mastering Eric Clapton guitar solos note for note. He spent his teenage years absorbing Bach fugues and writing his own compositions, incorporating complicated classical elements. While in high school he signed a recording contract with Shrapnel Records; he ultimately finished school early to tour with his heavy metal band, Cacophony, with fellow guitar player Marty Friedman, who later went on to play with Megadeth. In the mid-1980s, while still a teenager, Becker was playing on stages in front of big crowds, his face appearing in magazines. He seemed to be on a meteoric — and unstoppable — rise to fame.

And it wasn't just because he was a virtuoso guitarist. Becker, with his long rocker hair, was also a natural and magnetic performer who seemed to have an almost unreal control over his instrument. So when drummer Gregg Bissonette of the David Lee Roth Band called Shrapnel Records founder Mike Varney in search of a new guitarist, Varney recommended only Becker. At the time, the gig was one of the most highly coveted positions for a guitar player. Roth, of course, was most known for being the former frontman of Van Halen, one of the most successful and innovative hard rock groups of its time, thanks largely to guitarist Eddie Van Halen. After Roth parted ways with the band, he formed his own solo group with another talented guitarist, Steve Vai. Becker would be replacing Vai, who was leaving to pursue his own solo career. After hearing his incredible playing over the phone, Roth invited Becker to audition for the band. He got the gig. For the young Becker — who wasn't even 21 — it was a dream come true.

Simultaneously, Becker had been experiencing weakness in his leg, and it began getting worse. Just a week after joining the David Lee Roth Band, Becker went to the hospital, where he received a stunning diagnosis: Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's disease, a progressive neurodegenerative disease that leads to complete paralysis and, eventually, death. He was given three to five years to live.

Becker managed to record one album, *A Little Ain't Enough*, with Roth's band, but his condition deteriorated rapidly. He was having trouble playing guitar. With no choice, Becker left the band and returned home to Richmond, fading from the spotlight.

Kathleen Richards

Despite his illness, Becker continues to make music.

But that wasn't the end of Becker's story. In fact, contrary to his doctor's prognosis, Becker is still very much alive thanks to an attendant community of family members and caretakers. Although he is almost totally paralyzed except for his eyes and some other muscles, Becker is able to communicate using eye movements in a system his father devised. Through this letter-by-letter method, he has been able to write music. In fact he has produced six albums since his diagnosis, and a recent award-winning documentary, *Jason Becker: Not Dead Yet*, has eloquently captured his inspiring story. A screening — which doubles as a fundraiser for the Jason Becker Special Needs Trust and the ALS Therapy Development Institute — will happen on Thursday, September 19 at Bimbo's 365 Club.

On the surface, Becker's life sounds like a sob story: a story about the cruel and unfair hand that life sometimes deals us. But his is not a tale of woe but one of resilience; he's not someone to feel sorry for but someone to emulate. His passion for music — and, indeed, for life — transcends physical boundaries. "I really wanted people to feel Jason's resilient spirit and musical genius, but I also wanted to show that his story is really the story of many people," filmmaker Jesse Vile wrote in an email from his home in London. "It's the story of his family, his friends, and the selfless care [of] workers who keep him happy and healthy. It was also important that I conveyed his personality and show how someone took the lemons life gave him and made the best damn lemonade you've ever tasted."

In a recent interview at his Richmond hills home, Becker said (with the help of his mother Pat Becker) that he's received many offers over the years to make movies about his life, and at one point there was even a Hollywood script in the works. But for various reasons, they either never materialized or he didn't like the proposals. So when Vile initially approached Becker about the idea for his documentary he politely declined. But Vile was persistent. At one point, he put together a trailer using footage he found on the Internet and sent it to Becker. "It was amazing," said Becker, now 44.

Once given the green light, Vile (who's originally from Philadelphia and has been a fan of the guitarist since he was a teenager) and a small crew made two trips to Richmond — once in November 2010 and again in March 2011. He also interviewed Vai, Bissonette, Varney, guitarist Joe Satriani, and Dave Lopez of local band Bang Data, who grew up with Becker, as well as Becker's family and friends. One noticeable person that's missing is Roth himself. Vile said he spoke with Roth's manager several times, "but for whatever reason I guess he didn't want to be involved."

But as is made amply clear in the film, Becker's musical life didn't depend on Roth. After he was first diagnosed, he started "recording lots of music so I would have it down if I couldn't play anymore." Losing the ability to physically hold a guitar didn't stop Becker from composing, but he said it did alter the type of music he wrote. "I guess I couldn't rely solely on guitar," he said. "I had to make sure the songs expressed emotion on their own, and I leaned more on orchestral instruments."

It's hard to fathom, but the ideas that emerge from Becker's head are fully realized, orchestral compositions. Becker said it takes him a minimum of a couple months to write one song — which he does one note at a time with the help of his father Gary Becker, who transcribes his ideas using a computer. Where does he get his inspiration? "Oh, various places," Becker said. "Some from my musical influences, some just comes out of a silence or my noodle [brain] or just things from life that aren't even in music, just feelings or emotions." He said he listens to all kinds of music; some of his favorites are world music, Peter Gabriel, Philip Glass, Mozart, Stravinsky, and Dylan — "all kinds of crap."

It's clear that Becker's music resonates with many people. His Facebook page has more than 86,000 likes, and his fans comment as much on his music as on him being an inspirational figure. Yet Becker himself doesn't seem entirely comfortable with the title of role model. "He always makes fun of himself as being an inspiration," said his father, chuckling. "He wants to be a great composer, but instead he's an inspiration."

Still, Becker's keenly aware that his story has impacted others. He said he hopes *Not Dead Yet*, which premiered last year, will "make people buy my music and hopefully give some people reason to believe there is life after disease."

Indeed. One thing that comes across in the ninety-minute documentary is not only Becker's intact sense of humor (he introduces himself as "the sexiest man alive") but also that he doesn't view himself as a victim — not that his life has been easy either. "I have my moments of sadness, for sure," he said. "But I guess it helps that I am surrounded by great people who understand me and appreciate me. And I know God's grace is helpful and I am still able to do fun things and communicate, joke around. Life is fun, even without moving."

"That's been the theme of Jason's life," added his father Gary. "A lotta heaven and a lotta hell." ●

Kathleen.Richards@EastBayExpress.com

Event Details

Jason Becker: Not Dead Yet screens on Thursday, Sept. 19, at Bimbo's 365 Club (1025 Columbus Ave., San Francisco). Musical performances by Point (featuring Scott Ian, Jim Wilson, and Joey Vera) and Forrest Day. 7 p.m. $30-$75. Bimbos365Club.com

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WED 9/18
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THU 9/19
ROSE WINDOWS
SEXTUFFIC

FRI 9/20
FANFARE ZAMBALETA
RAYA BRASS BAND
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AN OAKLAND-GROWN MUSIC FESTIVAL

The inaugural Oakland Music Festival will feature two stages and more than twenty mostly local acts

By Whitney Phaneuf

The Coup will headline the Oakland Music Festival

Two years ago, when Jacobo Juarez and Alfonso Dominguez started talking about producing a festival devoted to Oakland music and food, they knew the timing wasn't quite right. Juarez said he was still running his San Francisco-based venue SOM (which closed last year) and Dominguez was busy managing his family's Oakland restaurant, Tamarindo Antojeria, among other projects. Now, however, their timing to launch the inaugural Oakland Music Festival (OMF) on September 21 couldn't be better.

"Oakland is standing tall," Juarez said. "It's a great time to celebrate its cultural assets. We're of the mindset that let's at least try it versus regret not doing it."

While San Francisco has Outside Lands and Noise Pop, to name a few, the East Bay has only recently emerged as a hotbed for music festivals. In July, Burger Boogaloo held its two-day garage-rock festival in Oakland's Mosswood Park, instead of in San Francisco, where it initially started. On Saturday, September 28, the Levi's co-sponsored arts festival Station to Station will make its final stop on a national tour at Oakland's historic 16th Street Station; the lineup features top indie artists such as Dan Deacon, No Age, Savages, and Twin Shadow.

Juarez explained by phone that he and Dominguez envisioned OMF as a way to showcase local talent rarely represented at the larger festivals. More than half the lineup is composed of artists — in the genres of indie-rock, electronic, and hip-hop — who live in the East Bay and another one-third comes from the greater Bay Area.

"There's not a lot of opportunity for East Bay artists to get exposure," Juarez said. "I wanted to showcase my friends. That's why we don't have more commercial or poppy acts on the bill."

Juarez, who has lived in the East Bay since 1994 and performs under the name DJ Hakobo, said he handpicked many acts he'd booked at SOM, a Mission District venue that was known for its diverse lineup of up-and-coming DJs, hip-hop acts, and bands. Juarez said he and his wife decided to close SOM in July 2012 to start a family, but the momentum to start the festival was too strong to resist.

Juarez said he and Dominguez pulled OMF together pretty quickly, focusing the last four months on finalizing the lineup, vendors, and promotion. In addition to operating Tamarindo, Dominguez is a co-founder of Popuphood, a project that was lauded by *The New York Times* for its innovative approach to filling vacant storefronts with temporary retail stores. Dominguez' contacts at the City of Oakland helped secure the necessary permits to block off San Pablo Avenue between 17th and 19th streets and obtain licenses to serve food, beer, and wine (which will all be provided by East Bay vendors).

The festival features two stages — one indoor at The New Parish and one outdoor. The music kicks off at noon and both stages will have performances simultaneously throughout the day. Juarez said they're expecting 2,000 attendees. With such a wide variety of genres represented in the lineup, Juarez said he scheduled the two stages to rotate between bands and DJs.

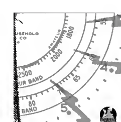
On the band front, don't miss Oakland legends The Coup, whose high-energy performances highlight emcee Boots Riley's flow and Pam the Funkstress' turntable work, and West Coast G-funk legend DāM-FunK, whose performance at Coachella earlier this year drew much acclaim. Fans of indie-rock should check out Oakland experimental-pop trio Religious Girls; San Francisco epic alt-rockers New Diplomat; and the local genre-bending Latin-rock-meets-hip-hop band Bang Data. Also don't miss Oakland emcee, pianist, and composer Kev Choice and his ensemble, who weave together elements of hip-hop, jazz, soul, funk, and classical. Oakland eight-piece band The Funk Revival Orchestra breathes new life into rare funk and soul music. Dead Klown Society combines metal, funk, ska, and reggae into upbeat rock. And Oakland duo James & Evander craft downtempo pop using synths and drum machines.

Among the DJ offerings, there's everything from old-school soul to new-school trap: Oakland monthly party The People will bring its eclectic combination of bass-driven hip-hop and beats from Africa, Brazil, and the Caribbean; Oakland cratediggers from The 45 Sessions will spin funk and soul records; producer Wonway Posibul will play his trademark mix of hip-hop and Latin soul; the Oakland-based crew Trill Team 6, responsible for the wild Sick, Sad World parties, will bump the latest beats in hip-hop and electronic music; San Francisco's Sweater Funk will inspire some retro dance moves with Eighties funk and soulful boogie; and tastemakers Corey Sizemore and Richie Panic of the Lights Down Low parties will dig out the hottest tracks in underground electronic. And if you're still standing after a long day of dancing, The People and special guests will host an after-party at The New Parish. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details

The Oakland Music Festival will take place on Saturday, Sept. 21, at San Pablo Ave. between 17th and 19th sts. and The New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland). Noon, $20-$25. OaklandMusicFestival.com.



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THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 19

@25TH STREET COLLECTIVE
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FREE/ ALL AGES/ 21+/ 6PM

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FREE/ ALL AGES/ 6:30PM

@ROCK PAPER SCISSORS COLLECTIVE
Vv olent Vickie
Lady Beaver
Super Califas
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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20

@THE STORK CLUB
Victory and Associates
Buttons
Detach Dolls
Arthur Tea and the OMGs
$5/ 21+/ 9PM

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20 (CONT)

@THE TOTALLY INTENSE FRACTAL MINDGAZE HUT
Loves In Heat Records Showcase!
Field Trips
Jonathan Beast and the Bathroom Floors
L355ONS
PS5NGRS
$7/ ALL AGES/ 9PM

@THE NEW PARISH
Future Twin
G Green
Electrician
$8 ADV $10 DOORS/ 18+/ 8PM

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21

@25TH STREET COLLECTIVE
25th Street Block Party!
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Yip Deceiver (Athens, GA)
Super Natural
Playboy School (LA)
Waiting Room
DJs Rance Brown (Indie Slash) and Amy Whoa
FREE/ ALL AGES/ 1PM

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21 (CONT)

@THE NIGHT LIGHT
El Elle
Gold Chains
Everything Is Dirty
ssssnakes (Chicago)
$7/ 21+/ 9PM

@THE STARRY PLOUGH
Dead Cat Hat
The New Thoreaus
Thirteen Button Trousers
Phoebe Hastings
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TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24

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CD REVIEWS

THROB AND PULSE

Sci-fi drama, Latin jazz elegance and blissful club beats.

Fuck Buttons

Slow Focus

One of the oddest and most impressive things about *Slow Focus* is how it manages to burble, groan, stammer, and seethe and yet never cross the line from melody into discord. From the cacophonous percussion that ushers in the opening track, "Brainfreeze," *Slow Focus* often seems as if it might break apart into science-fiction static at any moment. That drama — and the sturdy soundscapes that give rise to it — marks this album as one of 2013's finest.

Slow Focus offers many pleasures: the humane distortion that underpins "The Red Wing," the ebb and flow of ambience on "Year of the Dog" and "Stalker," a track that sounds as if the namesake Tarkovsky film had been stripped of its Eastern Bloc sterility and reset in 23rd century Bangkok, all jungle steam and throbbing pulse.

"Hidden XS" charts a consistent soaring trajectory upward, until it lands somewhere in the vicinity of *Flash Gordon*'s Sky City, replete with golden breastplates and metal hawk-wings. The album's most antisocial track, "Sentients," might also be its best, with a horror-movie string section and nodding robotic drone.

As a preteen I special-ordered an album of sound effects from the original 1960s *Star Trek* TV show and used to put it on just to listen to the hum of phaser beams and the gurgle of the transporter. With *Slow Focus*, Fuck Buttons has deconstructed the science-fiction sound effect and spun it into something both operatic and ominous, which is no mean feat. (ATP Recordings)

— *Sean Botter*

Fuck Buttons play The Independent on Wednesday Oct. 2. 8 p.m. $18, $20. TheIndependentSF.com

Various Artists

Salsa de la Bahia

Latin jazz took hold in the Bay Area during the 1950s and '60s through the work of such resident players as Cal Tjader, Benny Velarde, Carlos Federico, the Duran brothers (Carlos, Eddie, and Manny) and the Escovedo brothers (Pete and Coke) via concerts by visiting bandleaders like Tito Puente of New York and Perez Prado of Mexico City. Musicians of many ethnicities and nationalities — black, white, Mexican, and Panamanian, among them — joined together to create a California take on a sound rooted in the Cuban branch of the African diaspora.

Salsa, a highly danceable variant on the genre, showed up locally during the 1970s, particularly at Cesar's Latin Palace in San Francisco. Trombonist and arranger Wayne Wallace cut his teeth at Cesar's and today rivals only Oakland percussionist John Santos as the leading local proponent of Latin jazz. For *Salsa de la Bahia* Wallace has assembled a vibrant, wonderfully rhythm-charged 2-disc, 22-track compilation on his own Patois label that features 13 of the area's finest current groups. They range in style from the horn-punched frenzy of Velarde's Super Combo and Edgardo & Candela to the flute-and-fiddles-led elegance of Orquesta la Moderna Tradicion and the more experimental sounds of Santos' Machete Ensemble and sextet. Many of the musicians — including flautist John Calloway, saxophonist Melecio Magdaluyo, bassist David Belove and percussionist Michael Spiro — turn up in several different bands, providing further evidence of how cross-pollination continues to fuel the local Latin scene. (Patois)

— *Lee Hildebrand*

Delorean

Apar

On its 2010 album, *Subiza*, Spanish alternative dance-pop kings Delorean employed the relentless beats of house and techno to create infectious, carefree, and sun-drenched tracks that pulsed with energy. Not quite a club album, *Subiza* was nonetheless compelling, demanding listeners to not just dance to it, but to twirl until they collapsed, preferably on the beach.

Delorean's new album, *Apar*, is mostly more of the same. It's just as blissful, optimistic, and maximalist as its predecessor. The band has described *Apar* as its "big studio album," and, indeed, some of the changes in production are an improvement. Instead of using sampled female vocals, Delorean recruited Caroline Polachek of Chairlift and experimental singer-songwriter Cameron Mesirow (aka Glasser) to lend breathy vocals on several of the album's best tracks, including "Spirit" and "Destitute Time." *Apar* is also more polished. Lead singer Ekhi Lopetegi's vocals are clearer and the band's instrumentation is crisper.

But it feels like something may have been lost in translation. While many of the sounds on *Subiza* were created digitally, this time around the band made an attempt to use more real musicians and instruments. Ultimately, however, the tracks on *Apar* are less attention-grabbing, and toward the middle of the album, they tend to blend together. While pleasant, these songs could also easily be played in the background and forgotten. (True Panther/Mushroom Pillow)

— *Madeleine Key*

Delorean play The Independent (628 Divisadero St., San Francisco) on Monday, Oct. 7. 8 p.m., $18, $20. IndependentSF.com

LOCAL LICKS

BY WHIT[illegible]

French Cassettes

Gold Youth

French Cassettes honed its indie-rock sound on the road, playing numerous local shows as well as 2012's SXSW festival. On its debut full length, *Gold Youth*, the band churns out quick-and-dirty pop music, reminiscent of early albums by The Morning Benders and Generationals. Opener "Us Kids" introduces the warm guitar hooks, breezy vocal harmonies, and hand-claps that appear throughout the album. "Spooky" and "Too Young" are anchored by Strokes-style garage-rock riffs, while "Bee's Knees" toys with a more surf-rock sound. They're infectiously catchy. (self-released)

At The Uptown (1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on Friday, Sept. 27. 9 p.m., $8.

Big Tree

My, How You've Grown

Though Berkeley's Big Tree is clearly influenced by indie folk, lead singer Kaila McIntyre-Bader's strange, soulful vocals differentiate the five-piece. On the band's anthemic new EP, *My, How You've Grown*, McIntyre-Bader's vocals cast a dramatic mood — both lilting and harsh — in a style that brings to mind St. Vincent. On the uplifting "Believe," a soft folk guitar melody is paired with shimmering cymbals. "Wonder" is a fast-paced rambling folk song with funky rhythms, over which McIntyre-Bader belts urgently. The EP's standout track, "Like a Fool," weaves bluesy guitar in with McIntyre-Bader's bold vocals, which shift from high pitched and girly to throaty and vicious and are backed by bright harmonies. (self-released)

North Home

North Home

The project of Dan Nordheim, formerly of The Fancy Dan Band, North Home is melancholy lo-fi folk in the spirit of Elliott Smith. Nordheim recorded *North Home* in his Berkeley kitchen, capturing the mysterious, often startling, intimacy that comes with DIY production. Most of the album adheres to the genre's formula — stripped-down acoustic guitar and vocals — but "Look Away" and "Ransom" mix it up with eerie piano melodies. Throughout these ten tracks, a white noise buzzes in the background like a ghost in the room. (self-released) ●

This is the final column of Local Licks. Local bands will continue to be reviewed in CD Reviews.

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CONCERTS & CLUBS

THURSDAY 19

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Berkeley Old Time Music Convention presents **Sourwood Boys** w/ Alice Gerrard and Beverly Smith, and Freddie George and Kim Johnson. Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $14.50, $18.50

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Band, Starry Plough, 9 p.m., $6-$12

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Barry Timmons and Richard Pinhas [illegible], 8 p.m., $12

Brianna, [illegible] presents: Lab [illegible] w/ Super [illegible] and Seconds [illegible] Rock Paper Scissors Collective, 7 p.m., suggested $5 donation

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Duane Jeffrey's Jazz Quartet Dawn Music, 7:30 p.m., free

Happy Hour [illegible], The Marsh Arts Center, 7 p.m., [illegible]

[illegible] Jazz Brianna, [illegible] Road, 7:30 p.m., free

Mike Clark, Michael Zilber, Peter Barshay, and Jeff Marrs performing together [illegible], 8 p.m., $17-$15

[illegible] [illegible] jazz with guitar Brianna, singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Brianna, Records Music, 6:30 p.m., free

Fergie Bree Moonghorn on the Hill, 8 p.m., free

Hard Shine / [illegible] Metro and Doom [illegible], 1-2-3-4 Go! Records, 8 p.m., $8

The Last 10 Seconds of Life w/ Deserters, [illegible], and Death [illegible], Metro Operahouse, 7 p.m., $10

The Last [illegible], Starry Plough, 9 p.m., free

Mad [illegible] / [illegible] and Manifest [illegible], The Night Light, 9 p.m., $8

[illegible] / [illegible], Ashkenaz, 9 p.m., $TBA

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Big Sam's Funky Nation Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $22

[illegible] w/ [illegible], and Dope City Saints, Western Cafe, 9 & 10 p.m., $5-$10

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Fantastic Negrito w/ The [illegible] Squad [illegible], and The Hot Sauce feat. [illegible], Ashkenaz, 9 p.m., $15, $13

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Selwyn Birchwood w/ Sonny Rhodes, Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $20-$22

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Symphony Mahler, Symphony No. 8 feat. mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, Women of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, and the San Francisco Symphony [illegible] / Michael Tilson Thomas conducting, Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $15-$162

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] Hotel Rex, 8 p.m., $20-$40

Rock & Pop

Brianna w/ Little [illegible] and Nightmare and the Cat, Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., sold out

Black City Lights w/ [illegible], and Running of the Fog, [illegible], 8 p.m., $8

Brianna [illegible] Records Lettera, 8 p.m., $42.50-$67.50

Body Language w/ [illegible] and Raw [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $12, $14

The Freedom Form / Grant [illegible] and Daring Fair Amnesia, 8 p.m., $8-$10

Hard Skin w/ [illegible], [illegible], and Raven, Thee Parkside, 9 p.m., $10

Hood Rusts / Hardtops and Chief Enablers, Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $8

[illegible] w/ CCA Headscanner and Bears, Hemlock Tavern, 8:30 p.m., $10

Jason [illegible]: [illegible] **Movie and Break of End ALS** w/ music by Fred and Forrest [illegible], Brazil's 365 Club, 7 p.m., $20-$75

[illegible] w/ The Cathedral and [illegible], 8 p.m., $7

[illegible] [illegible], Western American Hall, 8 p.m., $30

The [illegible] [illegible] Social Soiree, 7:30 p.m., $TBA

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and The Common Men, Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $8

Sean Wiedenberg w/ Sausalito and [illegible], [illegible] Rock & Mortar Mesa Hall, 9 p.m., $10, $12

Yolo w/ [illegible] Pain Dream Lounge, 9:30 p.m., $8, $12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Eric Lindell Mezzo Boom Boom, 9:45 p.m., $10

Method Man and Redman / A-Plus of Hieroglyphics, Caulfyn [illegible], Kevy Kar 10 MF C, 10 Mark [illegible], and DJ Leydis, 1715 Folsom Nightclub, 8 p.m., $25

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Angel All Band and Sam [illegible] 7:30 p.m., $25-$60

FRIDAY 20

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Berkeley Old Time Music Convention presents: **Foghorn Stringband** w/ Dirk Powell, Eddie Bond and Josh Sile, and Thompson [illegible] Vandenmore and Andrad, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $14.50, $18.50

Ron [illegible] [illegible] Geoffrey's Inner Circle, 8 p.m., $17

Paul Edwards and the Souther Fog w/ [illegible] Wink, Caffe Stone, 9 p.m., and

Mister Kaurer [illegible] w/ Casey Hill and the Norway Hills and New [illegible] Ferrers, Starry Plough, 9 p.m., $8-$12

Wayne Hanks w/ The [illegible] "[illegible]" Johnson Band and The [illegible] The Brook Arts Center, 8 p.m., and

Brook and [illegible] w/ The Sherman and Shared All, Subterranean [illegible], 8 p.m., $10-$15

[illegible] Eagles Hall, 8 p.m., $13

Classical & Opera

Jerry Kadenza Lunch [illegible] Berkeley Arts Festival [illegible], noon, free

Wildcaller / [illegible] Hagisters at Sk Firehy St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 8 p.m., $13, $19

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Unfold [illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., $15

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Alex Haste, Firehouse Piano Company, 8 p.m., $10

East Bay [illegible] Justin, 9 p.m., free

Emily Ray Juneteenth, 9 p.m., $10

Jim Jones [illegible] Trio [illegible], 8:30 p.m., and

Lloyd Gregory and [illegible] 9th Street Gallery, 8:30 p.m., $15

[illegible] [illegible] Jazz with guest [illegible], and Alley, 8 p.m., and

Rock & Pop

[illegible]: A Night of the Gravity w/ The [illegible], [illegible], and Larkin Poe, Brook

and Arthur [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m., $6

Future Twins w/ B Gone and [illegible], The New Parish, 9 p.m., $8, $10

Boom Fecking Christie / [illegible], [illegible] Seconds Junkyard Army Law, and [illegible] Bust, 99's Mile High Club, 8:30 p.m., $7

Allied Omens w/ [illegible] [illegible] Lions, The Night Light, 9 p.m., $7

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Color Me Badd Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $37

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] Caribbean Western Ashkenaz, 9:30 p.m., $12

[illegible] Light w/ [illegible], Brianna on guitar and Robert Zamora on vocals, and Sound Roots, 8 p.m., $15, $20

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jesse [illegible] [illegible] Brianna, 9 p.m.-midnight, free

Papa Bear and the Easy Lovers / The Sam Chase The Lonesome Heroes, and Tambo, Thee Parkside, 9 p.m., $10

Roy Rogers and the Delta Rhythm Kings w/ Carlos Reyes, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $23-$27

Murray Birchwood w/ Sonny Brianna, Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $20, $22

Woods w/ The Fresh and Onlys, The Chapel, 9 p.m., $15, $17

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera presents Arrigo Boito's Mefistofeles feat. Ildar Abdrazakov, Patricia Racette, and Ramón Vargas w/ Nicola Luisotti conducting, War Memorial Opera House, 8 p.m., $26-$357

San Francisco Symphony Performs Brianna, Symphony No. 3, feat. mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, Women of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, and the San Francisco Symphony Girls Chorus w/ Michael Tilson Thomas conducting, Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $15-$162

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Emile, Michael Jazz Orchestra Top of the Mark, 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m., $10

The Third Quartet Bird & Beckett Books and Records, 5:30-8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

The Frontiers w/ Blood Lott and Bullseye, Eric, [illegible] Step, 9:30 p.m., $10, $15

Kenyon w/ Gary Wilson, The Independent, 9 p.m., sold out

Napl Aotoneuro w/ Western Justice, 50 Mission Social House, 10 p.m., $TBA

Kamelot w/ Hunter and Holpen, Slim's, 8 p.m., $26

Kerouatia w/ Seven Lions and Candyland, The Warfield, 8 p.m., $30-$50

The Seconds Project w/ Paper Lions and The Campbell Apartment, Cafe du Nord, 9:30 p.m., $12

Released for Lefty w/ Deleon Lee, The Brokes, and Radiation, Milk Bar, 9:30 p.m., $8

Gentle Gang w/ Lettuce Lie, Rock Island, and Caroline Bottom, Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $10, $12

Blindhorse w/ Hurons, Yellow, and Cornucopia, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 p.m., $6, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Jenny Craig w/ William Bartlett and Kyle Lucas, Bottom of the Hill, 9:30 p.m., $10

Nerd Bones w/ TNTK Mission T. Walmart Light Year Boom Panic: Dreamers, Ultraviolet, [illegible], Kenny Kev, [illegible], and 4x, 1015 Folsom Nightclub, 10 p.m., $15, $17.50

Los Fields and the Rigamarions w/ The [illegible], 1865 Club, 8 p.m., $20

The New Mastersounds w/ DJ [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m., $16

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Xantine Zambelele w/ Reyes Band Band and DJ Zulba, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m., $10, $15

Justina w/ Throughout Roots, Fortunato

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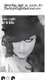
PICKS

El Elle

In the mid- to late-Aughts, Oakland electro-pop outfit The Lovemakers seemed to be on the verge of mainstream success. Instead, the band broke up in 2009. That might have been considered a tragedy except that, since then, Lovemakers co-founder Lisa Light has taken a fresh approach to her music. With El Elle, she crafts sexy dance-tunes in a similar vein to that of the Lovemakers, but this time around, it's with "joy," she said in an interview two years ago with the *Express*. Live, El Elle's performances pulse with feeling, as two choreographed dancers add to the music's sensual, experimental appeal. See her as part of the Mission Creek Oakland festival, with Gold Chains, Everyone Is Dirty and Sonmake, at The Night Light (311 Broadway, Oakland). — *Kathleen Richards*

Saturday, Sept. 21, 9 p.m., $7. TheNightLightOakland.com


Lisa Light of El Elle

Magic Mouth

25th Street Block Party

The Art Beat Foundation and Mission Creek Oakland (in collaboration with the *Express*) are teaming up to celebrate the East Bay's growing music scene with an afternoon of free live music. Head over to the 25th Street Collective (477 25th St., Oakland) to hear a diverse lineup of bands, including VIR, a local post-punk noise-pop trio; Yip Deceiver, an all-analog synth-pop duo and self-described "tribute to the laptop jockeys" from Athens, Georgia that's about to release its first full-length album; San Francisco-based Super Natural, an urban folk-rock band; Playboy School, an electronic rock duo from Los Angeles; and Oakland's own Waiting Room, an indie-rock three piece. There will also be DJs, food trucks, and other galleries open on the block. — *Madeleine Key*

Saturday, Sept. 21. 1 p.m., free. MCOFest.org

Magic Mouth

When a deep love of Nina Simone gets washed through waves of crunchy garage guitars and lead-driving post-punk spunk, you get a band like Magic Mouth, which has been tearing into Portland, Oregon for the past few years. Originally formed as a two-piece, with Peter Condra on guitar and Ana Margarita on drums, the band expanded in 2011 to include vocalist Chanticleer Tru and bassist Brendan Scott, who helped fill out its genre-breaking, tambourine-shaking sound. Now touring the West Coast in support of its freshly released debut LP, *Devil May Care*, Magic Mouth will make its first return to San Francisco this week since playing Pride in June. Somewhere between the howling, staccato soul vocals and the dance-inducing sonic orthodontia, you'll probably find your legs, ass, and shoulders, but I can't say in which order. At El Rio (3158 Mission St., San Francisco), with Glitterbang and Double Dutchess. — *Patrick Nguyen*

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 8 p.m., $8. ElRioSF.com

C&C

Youth and Micah Brown, The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $22.50
Mantra/ [illegible], 10 p.m., $15-$20
Michael [illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] San Francisco, 10:30 p.m. $15-$30
[illegible] / [illegible] and Sandy's, [illegible], 8 p.m., $10

SATURDAY 21

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Alesa w/ Andrew Blair and Pat Hull, [illegible] Cafe, 8 p.m., $7
Berkeley Old Time Music Convention presents: [illegible] Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 10:15 a.m., free
Berkeley Old Time Music Convention String Band Contest w/ performances by [illegible] Fiddlers and [illegible], [illegible] Farmers' Market, 11 a.m., free
Berkeley Old Time Music Convention Square Dance w/ [illegible], [illegible] and Josh [illegible], Ashkenaz, 7:30 p.m., $15
Boz Scaggs Fox Theater, 8 p.m., $65, $75
Keith Urban w/ Little Big Town and Dustin Lynch, Shoreline Amphitheatre, 7 p.m.

$39.25-$119
Mission Creek Oakland presents: The [illegible] w/ [illegible] Hat Band, [illegible] and Phoebe Hastings, [illegible], 8 p.m., $5, $7

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Trombone Quartet [illegible] Arts Festival Piedmont, 8 p.m., [illegible]
[illegible] Music The Cathedral of Christ the Light, 8 p.m., $10-$18
West Edge Opera presents: [illegible] w/ Jonathan Khuner conducting, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 8 p.m., $45-$125

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Mission Creek Oakland presents: El Elle w/ Gold Chains, Everyone Is Dirty and Sonmake, The Night Light, 8 p.m., $7
[illegible] Concert w/ [illegible] Art [illegible] Gallery & Cultural [illegible], 8 p.m., $10
Tuberoy Corporation w/ [illegible], Cornell Theatre, 7 p.m., $10, [illegible]

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] Trio [illegible], 7:30 p.m., free
Adam [illegible] Piedmont Piano Company, 8 p.m., $15
[illegible] [illegible] Lounge, 8 p.m., $10-$40, $12-$60
Dirty Cello Jupiter, 8 p.m., free
Jacquie Cole and Company [illegible] Gallery, 8:30 p.m., $15
Jazz & Joy Taste of Joy, 5:30 p.m., free
The Lost Cats [illegible] on the Hill, 7 p.m., free
Mary Jeanne The Sound Room, 8 p.m.

$10, $15
Red Bible [illegible] jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free
Russian River Jazz and Blues Festival w/ Boz Scaggs, Jeffrey Osborne, Robert Cray Band, Los Lonely Boys, Gregory Porter, and California Honeydrops, Johnson's Beach, Sep. 21-22, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., single day admission $70, two-day admission $120
Tiffany [illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., $15

Rock & Pop

Music Ways w/ [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], Oakland Metro Operahouse, 8 p.m., $10
[illegible] Band High Street Station Cafe, 9 p.m., $7
Windhand w/ [illegible] Witch, [illegible], Monuments Collapse, and Snail, Stork Club, 9 p.m., $5

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

2013 Oakland Music Festival w/ The Coup, Dubtronic, New [illegible], [illegible] Dubtronic Science, Vokab Company, [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], Sara of 4th Temple, Latin Soul Brothers, and [illegible], The New Parish, 11 a.m., $15-$20
DJ [illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m., $22.50

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Andy y Dallas [illegible], 7:30 p.m., $15
The John [illegible] [illegible], 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., $17, $19

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C&C

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Concord Coal Dogpatch Saloon, 6:15 p.m., free

Grace Asberry w/ Shingalo's, Thee Parkside, 3 p.m., free

Haymarket Squares w/ Vagabondage and The Shotbolt, 50 Mason Social House, 7 p.m., $TBA

Sweet Unsorts Records & Bless, 7:30 p.m., $10, $12

Distillants di Gusto Italian folk music with Gaffe Migliore Caffe Trieste, 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., free

DIY and ... w/ **Gusto** Stoned and Unbound, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 p.m., $15

Songwriters in the Round w/ Jeff ... ain, Amie Powell and Stoned Cary, Bazaar Cafe, 7 p.m., free

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Symphony Premiere Gustav Symphony No. 3, feat. mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, Women of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, and the San Francisco Symphony Girls Chorus, w/ **Gustav** Tilson Thomas Davies Symphony Hall, 5 p.m. $15-$152

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Allen Toussaint SFJAZZ Center, 7:30 p.m.,

$25-$65

Rock & Pop

Battlehooch w/ Tope Gale Skeleton and Quiet, Brick, 8 p.m., $7

Ian Tweter w/ Ypres Halls, The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $20

Moore w/ Stoned Spoilies and Feathers, Bot Tom of the Hill, 9:30 p.m., $10, $12

Polygamy w/ Lilly Wilson, The Chapel, 8 p.m., $12, $15

The OCB The Rickshaw, 9:30 p.m., free

The Midway Dolls w/ Chris Moore and the Showdowns and Mission Sweetest, Public Works, 9 p.m., $8, $10

SF Punk Homecoming 2013 w/ The Mutants, Frightwig, Penelope Houston, Roy Loney and the Morsels, Manners, Pacific, Winston Tong (w/ UX Radio), Nervous Gender, Rampage (w/ Randy Rampage and Zippy Pinhead), The Alley Cats, The Offs, Sudden City Rebels, and more. Verdi Club, 2 p.m., $40 two-day pass

Gudo Poncho w/ Pancho and Wise Gunter, Café du Nord, 9 p.m., $10

Off Studio w/ Permanent Collection, Tender Blessed, and Tongue, Thee Parkside, 8 p.m., $6

Yip Goodness w/ Leoso Blue and Ribbon Comeda, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 8 p.m., $10, $12

Zeppanella w/ Stoned Turn Me On and The Goodes with Monkeys, Slim's, 8 p.m., $16

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Down and Dirty Mayra rd Sighs holds, 111A Lounge, 8 p.m., $15, $20

Fantastic The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m., $35-$60

Shadow Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $35, $29

SUNDAY 22

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Americana Unplugged w/ The Cherry Pickers, Jupiter, 5 p.m., free

Berkeley Old Time Music Convention Family Square Dance w/ Gene Forrest and Chela Stelmis and friends, Ashkenaz, 3 p.m., $8 adults, $4 youth

Oakland Fay and Christian Burlesque w/ UV Dominic, Actual Café, 5 p.m., free

Sunday Morning Gospel with Bev Kaida, Caffe Mediterraneum, 10 a.m., free

Classical & Opera

21st Annual Bay Area Bluegrass Gospel Festival Berkeley Arts Festival, 8 p.m., $8-$20

Gala Ensemble w/ Makunder, Gustav, Oakland, 7 p.m., $10-$15

Cutting Edge Opera Christian Oakland w/ Feminine Absent, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 3 p.m., $30-$125

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Dakota Howells / South Kanakalu Duo Clermont, 7 & 9 p.m., $20, $25

Gregory Moore Yoshi's Oakland, 5 & 8 p.m., $18, $23

Jazz and R&B Night Brainy's Lodes, 8-10 p.m., free

John Schott Street Cafe, 5 p.m., free

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57th Street Art Gallery 5701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-654-8058.

924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-9926.

Actual Café 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-653-8368.

Air Bar & Lounge 492 9th St., Lower Patio, Oakland, 510-444-2327.

Albatross Pub 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2473.

The Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-8505.

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Art House Gallery & Cultural Center 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-472-3170.

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Oakland Cafe 1429 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-1440.

The Baltic 135 Park Pl., Point Richmond, 510-237-1000.

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Oil 21 2113 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-268-9425.

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Sea Art Bar and Lounge 18 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-832-4400.

Gustav & Jazz Barbeque 126 Street Way, Oakland, 510-685-2350.

First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696.

Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-749-0332.

Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 800-745-3000.

Tongo & Salsage 5201 Foothill Blvd., Berkeley, 415-644-2020.

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Hertz Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley, 510-643-9939.

High Street Station 1303 High St., Alameda, 510-995-8048.

Island Paradise Club 1425 Oakland St., Alameda, 510-865-3925.

Ivy Pablo 840 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-818-5388.

Jazzschool 2087 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-845-5373.

Jewish Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237.

John Patrick's 1813 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-1186.

Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden 1223 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-2386.

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277.

Kimball's Carnival 522 2nd St., Oakland, 510-444-6400.

Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-5464.

La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568.

Laney College Theater 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-464-3565.

The Layover 1517 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-1517.

The Legionnaire Saloon 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland

Lost Weekend Lounge 2320 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-523-4700.

Lounge 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-531-3411.

Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677.

Mills College 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-430-2255.

Missouri Lounge 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8500.

New Parish ... City 1839 Webster St., Oakland, 510-238-0700.

The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland, 510-444-7474.

The Night Light 311 Broadway, Oakland, 510-282-4413.

Oakland Metro Operahouse 630 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-1146.

ORACLE Arena 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121.

Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland, 510-465-6400.

Piedmont Piano Company 1728 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-547-8188.

Quinn's Lighthouse 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, 510-536-2050.

Radio 435 13th St., Oakland, 510-451-2888.

Rhythmic Cultural Works 2513 Harding Ave., Oakland, 510-836-5080.

The Rock Steady 5245 San Pablo Ave., Oakland.

Rooster's Roadhouse 1700 Fairmont Ave., Oakland, 510-337-9190.

Ruby Room 132 14th St., Oakland, 510-444-7224.

Saddle Rack 42011 Boyce Rd., Fremont, 510-979-0477.

Sweets Ultra Lounge 391 13th St., Oakland, 510-829-1000.

Shoreline Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, 650-967-3000.

Sleep Train Pavilion at Concord 2000 Kirker Pass Rd., Concord, 925-676-8742.

Spider Cavern 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1200.

Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082.

Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174.

Subterranean Art House 2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-388-2381.

Street Plugers 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-553-9600.

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Vinyl at Street 420 14th St., Oakland, 510-378-9954.

Wheeler Auditorium UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-4290.

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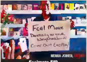
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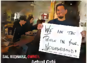
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The Sandy Brown Trio Nick's Lounge, 6:30-10 p.m., free

Sheri Johnson Friedlander and the Marcus Alba Quintet Maxwell, 4:30 p.m., $15

Rock & Pop

Ruby Queen w/ John Karkans World of Shit, Dryaugh, and Bad Angle. Bit's Hills High Club, 5 p.m., $TBA

Goodie Winston Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $26.50, $30.50

Whiskey Dollars Hauntgrass on the Rd., 4 p.m., free

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Sundays in Oakland Champagne "steppin w/ Roots" [illegible] of 2 p.m., Mitchell's Corner, 2-7 p.m., $5 [illegible] 8 p.m.

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

The Bazaar Starry Plough, 4 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

4th Bradley Winston Swing Moreno, 7 p.m., $5-$10

Wolf Brothers w/ Wolf and Bree and Sorry Etc. Bond Uah, 8 p.m., $8

Dead Winter Carpenters Marine & Blues, 7 & 9 p.m., $15

Dirty Beaches w/ Gala and Gimme, Bottom of the Hill, 8 p.m., $12

Lee Gallagher and the Hallelujah w/ Annie Call and the Right and Smile Sessions, Amnesia, 8 p.m., $7-$10

Magnolia Moon w/ Marcus Orphand and The Slow Poisoner, Hemlock Tavern, 8:30 p.m., $8

Robins Team w/ Sel Khar, The Poisoner, 8 p.m., free

Story Karaoke Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m., free

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera Organalia: Rubber Chalkness w/ George Manahan conducting, War Memorial Opera House, 2 p.m., $26-$312

San Francisco Symphony Maroon Symphony No. 5, feat. mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, Marcus of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus and the San Francisco Symphony Girls Chorus, w/ Michael Tilson Thomas conducting, Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $15-$152

Gospel & Vocal

Gospel Sunday with Robert Bennett & rotating guests, 1300 on Fillmore, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., $30, includes brunch

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Jazz in Mind Yoshi's San Francisco, 7 p.m., $60 w/ dinner, $75 fine

SFJAZZ presents: Orquesta Buena Vista Social Club Davies Symphony Hall, 7 p.m., $25-$80

Rock & Pop

Dee Bye performing Arcade Fire's Funeral, plus a set of originals, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m., $10, $12

Temple Wiley w/ Black Lotus Vipers, Big Baby Gara, and Surfs, Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $8

Jimmy Eat World w/ Only Fond, The Warfield, 8 p.m., $35, $38

Lemon Bumsecond Jeffrey Lock, Lemon Make-Out Room, 7:30 p.m., $8

SF Punk Homecoming 2013 w/ The Mutants, Frightwig, Penelope Widener, Roy Loney and the Phantom Movers, Fadak, Winston Tong (w/ JX Radio), Norman Lord's Rampage (w/ Randy Rampage and Ziggy Pinhead), The Alley Cats, The Offs, Rubber City Rebels, and many more. Verdi Club, 2 p.m., $50 two-day pass

Slap w/ Station Sahar and Idle Years Toy, DNA Lounge, 8:30 p.m., $13-$16

Steel and Camouflage w/ No Bay and the Nobodies and Kevin Marcus, El Rio, 8 p.m., $5

The San Francisco Album Project: Paloma and the Revolution The Beauty Bar, 8 p.m., $15, $30

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Club Lloyd w/ PPB, Harmony Marcus Sully, and Zane Lamont, The Regency Ballroom, 7 p.m., $28.50, $30

Summer of the Lemon w/ Gala brown, barbarous musicians, and DJs, Boot Hotel, Gbss, 9 p.m., free

MONDAY 23

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Mike Clark, Michael Zilber, Peter Barshay, and Jeff Chambers performing together, Duende, 8 p.m., $15

Rock & Pop

The Club Noodle w/ Adam Widener and Summer Fly, The Night Light, 9 p.m., $5

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

HARDY presents: "Nights of Soul" Dinner by comedian Rob Mahoney, feat. live music and spoken word. Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $30

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

The Earl Brothers w/ Highest Rangeland, Amnesia, 9 p.m., $7-$10

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Symphony presents: Bobby McFerrin: Spirit You All Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $25-$85

Experimental & Avant-Garde

The Living Jukebox w/ Four Tables and Amber Asylum, Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $12, $15

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Le Jazz Hot in Colonial, 7 p.m., free

Good Ethan the Session Biscuits & Blues, 7:30 p.m., $12

Rock & Pop

Summers w/ Station and the Indexes and Head Meat, Elbo Room, 8 p.m., $8

Porcelain w/ The Tender Boys and Teenage Dumster, Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $10, $12

Sunshine Field w/ Widener Cuddlefunk and Hands, Slim's, 8 p.m., $14, $16

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Amoeba Music 1855 Haight St., 415-831-1200.

Bazaar Cafe 5927 California St., 415-831-5620.

Beach Chalet 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439.

Beauty Bar 2299 Mission St., 415-285-0323.

Boom Boom Room 1601 Fillmore St., 415-673-8000.

Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St., 415-621-4455.

Brick & Mortar Music Hall 1710 Mission St., 415-800-8782.

Bruno's 2389 Mission St., 415-643-5200.

Cafe du Nord 2170 Market St., 415-861-5016.

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Doc's Clock 2575 Mission St., 415-824-3627.

Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074.

El Rio 3158 Mission St., 415-282-3325.

Elbo Room 647 Valencia St., 415-552-7788.

The Endup 401 6th St., 415-646-0999.

The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd., 415-346-6000.

Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St., 415-885-0750.

Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk St., 415-923-0923.

Herbst Theatre 401 Van Ness Ave., 415-392-4400.

Hotel Utah 500 4th St., 415-546-6300.

The Independent 628 Divisadero St., 415-771-1421.

Johnny Foley's Irish House 243 O'Farrell St., 415-954-0777.

The Knockout 3223 Mission St., 415-550-6994.

Madrone Lounge 500 Divisadero St., 415-241-0202.

Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St., 415-647-2888.

Mezzanine 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880.

Mighty 119 Utah St., 415-762-0151.

Milk Bar 1840 Haight St., 415-387-6455.

Mr. Smith's 34 7th St., 415-355-9991.

The Neck of the Woods 406 Clement St., 415-387-6343.

Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St., 415-921-1695.

The Regency Ballroom 1300 Van Ness Ave., 888-929-7849.

Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St., 415-861-2011.

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The Uptown 200 Capp St., 415-861-8231.

The Warfield 982 Market St., 415-775-7722.

Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St., 415-655-5600.

Ede plays RH Music's A Night at the Greek at the Greek Theatre on Friday, Sept. 20.

The Vaceleros w/ The [illegible] Gang of 1974 and Red Sons. The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m., $25 ADV

The Doors Down w/ [illegible] Disc [illegible], 6:30 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ Andy D. [illegible] Tavern, 8:30 p.m., $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Mountain, The Chapel, 9 p.m., $15-$18

Little Doves w/ [illegible], The Independent, 8 p.m., $27

[illegible] w/ Girls and Boys and [illegible] Summer Armenia, 9:15 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and Magic Fight, Vibe Room, 9 p.m., $5

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Knockout, 8:30 p.m., $7

[illegible] w/ Sam Flax, [illegible], Neck of the Woods, 9 p.m., $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], Slide Bar, 9:30 p.m., $10-$45

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Indie.Arte The [illegible], 8 p.m., $10-$14

Sif w/ Sam [illegible] and [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $12, $15

Wax Tailor w/ The [illegible] Squadron, [illegible], and [illegible], Mezzanine, 8 p.m., $18

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] and Southern [illegible] [illegible] Jazz & Musical [illegible] and [illegible] Books and Records, 7 p.m., $10-$20

TUESDAY 24

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] and [illegible] Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m., $12-$14

Classical & Opera

[illegible] 2nd Annual Chamber Music Festival The New Parish, 8 p.m., free, w/ a suggested donation of $5-$10

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] Trio Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

[illegible] Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $10

Kerley Stars, The Caffe Trieste, 7:30-9:30 p.m., free

Red Dirty dinner jazz with guest Anmeel singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible] Greenhouse, 7 p.m., $8

[illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $18.50-$19.50

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Stork Club, 8 p.m., $5

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Layin' Low The Layover, 10 p.m., $TBA

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

The [illegible] w/ [illegible] and the [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $8

Red [illegible] 50 Mason Social House, 9 p.m., $TBA

Red [illegible] [illegible] Stars, 8 & 10 p.m., $25

Stars, [illegible] Plough and Stars, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Lights, Great American Music Hall, 8:30 p.m., $25, $30

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera presents [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], Patricia Racette, and [illegible] singers, w/ [illegible] conducting, War Memorial Opera House, 8 p.m., $25-$357

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] Cafe, 8:30 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

p.m., free

Kerley Stars, and [illegible] The Marsh Arts Center, 7 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible], 5 p.m., $10

Red Dirty dinner jazz with guest Anmeel singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

The [illegible] w/ The [illegible] Hearts, The [illegible], and Courtney and The [illegible], The Night Light, 9 p.m., $5

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Stars, and [illegible] the [illegible], The New Parish, 8 p.m., $12, $14

[illegible] and Blues Band Ashkenaz, 8 p.m., $12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Caribbean Night with Reggae [illegible] and DJ [illegible], Kerley's [illegible], 7-11 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Craig Horton Annmeel & Band, 8 & 10 p.m., $15

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and Michael Chapman, Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $15

The [illegible] The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $48.50

Terry [illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 p.m., free

The [illegible] 50 Mason Social House, 8 p.m., $TBA

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera presents [illegible] w/ George Manahan conducting, War Memorial Opera House, 7:30 p.m., $25-$357

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] / The [illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible], 8:30 p.m., $8

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible], 8 p.m., free

[illegible] Vibes Apache Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $21, $25

[illegible] playing [illegible] jazz piano, Top of the Mark, 8:30-11:30 p.m., $8

[illegible] Symphony Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $12, $15

The [illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], [illegible] Media, 8 p.m., $TBA

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible] of the Hill, 9 p.m., $10

[illegible] / The [illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 8 p.m., $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible], 8 p.m., $8

[illegible] [illegible] Bar, 8 p.m., $8

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Black Music w/ [illegible] and Red [illegible], The Independent, 8 p.m., $12, $14

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Timba & Salsa Night w/ DJ [illegible] & [illegible], [illegible], 10 p.m., $5

WEDNESDAY 25

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

The Doors Down Pelotons w/ Bobby Jo Valentine, Anne and Pete Sibley, and Jordie Lane, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $14.50, $18.50

[illegible] Band Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., sold out

Classical & Opera

Classical [illegible] on Amber Cafe, 7 p.m., $5-$20

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible] Opera [illegible], Berkeley Arts Festival, 8 p.m., $5-$20

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] w/ The [illegible] Quartet, [illegible], and [illegible] Brigade, Stork Club, 8 p.m., $8

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] & the Doors [illegible] Hooker's Roadhouse, 8-10 p.m., free

Live Jazz Townhouse Bar & Grill, 7:30

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MAJOR POWERS & THE LO-FI SYMPHONY
THE FENCH CASSETTES, EVERYONE IS DIRTY

9/28 DOOR 8PM $10
MISSION CREEK CLOSING PARTY
MWAHAHA
DARLING EAR, CASEY CHISHOLM

10/31 DOOR 8PM $18
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THE DWARVES
MYSTIC KNIGHTS OF THE COBRA
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SEPT 18 - 23 CLUB SCHEDULE
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DJ GREEN B & DJ THEORY
reggae dancehall soca

FREE
DJ MILES GREEN & LUCIO K
samba soul favela funk reggae hip hop

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DJs MERE & MAX KANE
hip hop dancehall party hits

$7/$5 b4 11
DJs UMAMI, GELSON & MR LUCKY hip hop r&b slaps reggae remixes

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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 19

EAST BAY

Boomerang w/ [illegible] Sound and [illegible], Fox Theater, 7:30 p.m., $67.50

Bout It, down-home happy hour. The Legionnaire Saloon, 5:30 p.m., free

Deep Cool Lounge 3411, 9 p.m., free

Deep East w/ [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible]. Lounge 3411, 9 p.m., free

DJ Lady Ryan Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

DJ Night [illegible] spinning [illegible] pop, mind-blowing rock, and urban hip-hop, Kip's Restaurant, 8:30 p.m., free

DJ [illegible] spinning lounge. East Weekend Lounge, 8 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Future Sound w/ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, soul, and drum, The Legionnaire Saloon, 9:30 p.m., free

Hip [illegible] with [illegible], The Layover, 10 p.m., free

Golden Era Thursdays w/ [illegible] the Vinyl Anthropologist and guest DJs, Vinyl at Verse Oakland, 10 p.m., free (before) 11pm, $5 after

Posh Bar/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible] spinning reggae, dancehall, soca, and hip-hop. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., free

NYT KallY Indie pop, mash-ups, new music. Radio, 10 p.m.-2 p.m., free

Re-Cess w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, house, dancehall, and more. Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Symbiosis Gathering w/ [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], Lumiere, Pepe!, [illegible], Star Slinger, Club Fabric, You Do The Society, and many more, Woodward Reservoir, Sep. 18-22, noon, $90 two-day ticket - $275 two-day ticket

Study Sound White Horse Inn, 10 p.m.-midnight, free

Ultra Wave w/ [illegible], [illegible] rock, and White [illegible], Indore Bar & Lounge, 9:30 p.m., $TBA

All 80s w/ DJ [illegible] and DJ [illegible] spinning 80's hits, Continental Club, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $5

Bortolt [illegible] Sessions featuring DJs [illegible] and [illegible]. Westbrand Bar, 8 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

1984 DJs [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] rock, & [illegible] spin '80s & new wave, DNA Club, 9 p.m., free before 9:30 p.m., $4

Bachelors of [illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], Monarch, 10 p.m., $5 (before) $1pm

[illegible] w/ DJ Big Nate, Make-Out Room, 10 p.m., free

XO LGBT ladies celebration party, The Tribe, 10 p.m., free

DJ [illegible] California Academy of Sciences, 6 p.m., $12

[illegible] The EndUp, 10 p.m., $10

[illegible] Night DJ Don [illegible], [illegible] and guests spinning Salsa, Cumbia, Reggaeton, and Merengue. Madrone Art Bar, 9 p.m., free

FRIDAY 20

EAST BAY

DJ Josh spinning Top 40, dance, and hip-hop, White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., free

DJ Night DJs spinning [illegible] pop, mind-blowing rock, and urban hip-hop, Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free

DJ White Mane Somar Bar & Lounge, 8 p.m., free

Dusted Fridays rotating DJs spinning hip-hop, R&B, and reggae, New Parish/Ironman City, 9 p.m., $1 admission until 1 a.m.

Friday Night Salsa w/ guest DJs spinning salsa, La Estrellita Cafe, 10 p.m., $6

Friday Nite Jams w/ DJ [illegible], [illegible], 10 p.m., $5

Happy Hours w/ DJ Golden Gram spinning punk, rock, indie, & noise rock, The Missouri Lounge, 6-11 p.m., free

Hip-Hop [illegible] Beats w/ [illegible] DJ, Club 1220, 9 p.m., $6

Golden [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free, $5 cover after 11 p.m.

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge Felipe spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, dance, Spanish pop, & house, Tenth and Bar, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $8-$15

Mighty Ital DJs [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, and hip-hop, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 (before) 11 p.m., $10 after

Old School hip-hop and funk, Radio, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] Night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning reggae, soca, salsa, & R&B, Island Paradise Club, 10 p.m., ladies free (before) 11:30 p.m.

Retro [illegible] [illegible] from '80s pop night, Ringmore's [illegible] Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Simply [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] and DJ Boy Wonder, Somar Bar & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 after 11 p.m.

The [illegible] with DJ [illegible], The Layover, 8 p.m.

Sultry Fridays DJ [illegible] spin R&B & soul, Kimball's Carnival, 9 p.m., $5

Symbiosis Gathering w/ [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], Active Child, [illegible], Lumiere, Pepe!, [illegible], Star Slinger, Club Fabric, You Do The Society, and many more, Woodward Reservoir, noon, $90 two-day ticket - $275 two-day ticket

World Hus Fridays featuring DJ Tropic, Lounge [illegible] soca, samba, salsa, merengue, dancehall, reggae, afrobeats, [illegible] music, & more!, Conga Lounge, 10 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] spin [illegible] booty night, [illegible], [illegible] booty, hip-hop, & party classics, Madrone Art Bar, 6 p.m., $5 after 10 p.m.

DJ Deejay [illegible] spinning soul, hip-hop, [illegible] R&B, '80s, night, & pop, Dalva, 9 p.m., free

DJ [illegible] [illegible] rock classics, Madrone Art Bar, 6-9 p.m., free

DJ What's the Flock spinning punk rock, The Riptide, 9 p.m., free

DJs Farmers and [illegible] The [illegible], 8 p.m., free

Endorphin w/ [illegible] in the main room, Public Works, 9 p.m., $15, $20 after midnight

[illegible] Friday DJs [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible], '90s and hip-hop, The Cellar, 10 p.m., free (before) 10 p.m., $10 after

[illegible] rotating DJs, The Stud, 11 p.m., $15, free before midnight

Retro Night w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], [illegible], 10 p.m.

Joe [illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], Monarch, 9 p.m., free w/ RSVP (before) 10:30pm, $10-$20 after

Lebowski w/ DJ Tom Thump and guests, Make-Out Room, 10 p.m., $5

Mighty Gooks Mighty 10 p.m., $10

Night of the Dance w/ DJs [illegible], and [illegible] spinning [illegible] rock n' roll and honkin' oldies, The Knockout, 10 p.m., $10

[illegible] International DJs [illegible] and [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, & R&B, [illegible], 9 p.m., $5

Remodel w/ [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], Mr. [illegible], and [illegible] in the loft, Public Works, 9 p.m., $5 before 11pm, $10 after

Rock & Roll Gathering w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m., free

[illegible] Attack w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] spinning indie, [illegible], and more, [illegible] Club, 9:30 p.m., free (before) 10 p.m., $5

[illegible] dance party hosted by [illegible], w/ rotating DJs, [illegible], 10 p.m., $10

Strictly Videos featuring [illegible] spinning music videos from every genre, 111 Minna

PICK

Gold Panda

Initially, Derwin never intended to release the music he made — repurposed old sounds created on an Akai MPC 2000XL sampler — but then the UK label Ghostly International discovered the London-born, Berlin-based electronic producer (who goes by the handle Gold Panda and will only reveal his first name) on MySpace. His subsequent debut album, *Lucky Shiner*, received critical praise for its nostalgic-yet-unfamiliar vibe when it was released in 2010. After touring extensively for three years, Gold Panda released *Half of Where You Live* earlier this year; it's an explicit homage to many of the distant places touring took him. This effort is darker and even more trance-like than his debut: There are no obvious singles or even clear melodies. But that fact is likely to make his upcoming performances at The Independent (628 Divisadero St., San Francisco) an even more immersive, mind-drowning experience. With Slow Magic, Vision of Shapes, and DJ Dials. — *Madeleine Key*

Saturday, Sept. 21 (9 p.m.) and Sunday, Sept. 22 (8 p.m.). Saturday show is sold out; Sunday tickets cost $16. TheIndependentSF.com

Forest Lulsey, $5-$10

Trouble [illegible] 7 Year Anniversary w/ [illegible] Sister [illegible] Blue Eyes, Mighty. 9 p.m. $15

SATURDAY 21

EAST BAY

[illegible] [illegible] spinning R&B & hip-hop, Forno. 10 p.m. [illegible]

[illegible] w/ [illegible], DJ [illegible], The Fresh [illegible], 10 p.m., $5

Club [illegible] w/ [illegible] spinning soul, [illegible], White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $7

DJ [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] guests spinning hip-hop & R&B, [illegible] 9 p.m. $5 before 11 p.m.

DJ [illegible] [illegible] Lounge, 9 p.m., free

DJ Night DJs spinning [illegible] pop, [illegible] hip-hop rock and urban hip-hop, [illegible] Restaurant, 9:30 p.m. free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, indie pop, punk, [illegible] & rock, The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

[illegible] Saturdays Club 1220, 9 p.m. $5

[illegible] DJ [illegible] jams of the eighties and nineties [illegible] pop, hip-hop, R&B, [illegible] Fifty-Five, 10 p.m. free

Magic [illegible] [illegible] guests [illegible], [illegible] Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m. free

[illegible] Night [illegible] Lounge, 10 p.m., free

[illegible] with [illegible] before and [illegible], The Layover, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] Saturdays [illegible] guests hip-hop, [illegible] soul and world flavors, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 guests 11 p.m. $10 after

[illegible] Gathering w/ [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] Society [illegible], [illegible], $80 two-day ticket, $175 two-day [illegible]

Vinyl [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning punk, [illegible], '90s [illegible], 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] house, 9:30 p.m., $15

[illegible] [illegible] night, DNA Lounge, 9 p.m., $17, $20

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] Bay Area [illegible], [illegible], 10 p.m. free before 11 p.m. with weather

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], [illegible] Deep, [illegible], 9 p.m., $10-$20

DJ [illegible] [illegible] Bar, 9 p.m., free

DJ [illegible] w/ DJs spinning grooves, [illegible], salsa, [illegible] and world [illegible], [illegible], 10 p.m., $5

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Weekend, [illegible] 9:30 p.m., $8-$15

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Boys, [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m., $20

[illegible] w/ [illegible] of Black, [illegible], The Independent, 9 p.m., [illegible]

[illegible] DJs [illegible] spin hip-hop, soul, funk, [illegible] reggae, [illegible] 9 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible] party w/ DJs spinning '80s [illegible], & hip-hop, [illegible] Club, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] 9 p.m., $5-$7

[illegible] International DJs [illegible] spin reggae, [illegible] hip-hop, [illegible] 9 p.m. $5

[illegible] Saturdays w/ Bay Area [illegible], [illegible] Nightclub, 10 p.m., $10 until 10:30pm, $20 after

The Queen [illegible] Night w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], [illegible] 9 p.m. [illegible] $5

Saturday Night [illegible] Party with DJs [illegible] and [illegible] spinning '60s Soul 45's, The Room, 10 p.m. $5-$10

[illegible] w/ DJs spinning hip-hop [illegible] club hits, The [illegible] 9 p.m. [illegible]

10 p.m. $10 after

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Mighty, 10 p.m. $10

The [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], John [illegible] & guests spinning house, [illegible], The [illegible], 10 p.m., $10

SUNDAY 22

EAST BAY

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] before 5pm

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible] Lounge, 9 p.m. [illegible] free

Club [illegible] [illegible] 9 p.m., $5

DJ [illegible] [illegible] Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] Gathering w/ [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] Society [illegible], $80 two-day ticket, $175 two-day [illegible]

[illegible] Sundays DJs spin ska, rocksteady, & roots reggae, The [illegible] Club, 7 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 10 p.m., $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Magic [illegible] and DJ [illegible], The Independent, 9 p.m. $18, $20

[illegible] DJ [illegible] guests spin reggae & dancehall, [illegible] 9 p.m., free before 10:30 p.m. $5

[illegible] Sundays w/ [illegible] spinning [illegible] music, Paradise Lounge, 8 p.m. $3 after 11 p.m.

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] for [illegible], [illegible] Bar, 5-midnight, $5

[illegible] w/ rotating live bands, [illegible], 3 p.m., $5

Sunday [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] and more, The [illegible], 6 p.m.-2 a.m. $10

[illegible] party w/ [illegible] grooves, The Knockout, 10 p.m. free

MONDAY 23

EAST BAY

[illegible] Nights w/ [illegible] and [illegible] spinning [illegible], reggae, Latin [illegible] hip-hop, [illegible] & Lounge, 10 p.m. free

DJ [illegible] The Layover, 10 p.m. free

[illegible] on Mondays w/ [illegible], The Legionnaire Saloon, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] Weekend DJ [illegible] spins [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m. free

Underground [illegible] [illegible] '60s & [illegible] '70s music, [illegible], 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ DJs spinning [illegible], industrial, synthpop, [illegible], DNA Lounge, 9:30 p.m. $3, $5

DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible] and rare grooves, [illegible] Bar, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] & guests spin [illegible] from the '70s to today, Underground SF, 10 p.m. free

[illegible] [illegible] soul, funk, hip-hop, reggae, [illegible], Afrobeat, [illegible], [illegible], 10 p.m. $3

[illegible] Vinyl [illegible] of DJs spin [illegible], punk, psych, hip-hop and hip-hop, [illegible], 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] spinning [illegible], dancehall, [illegible], 9:30 p.m., free

[illegible] Sessions w/ [illegible], Kung Fu [illegible], [illegible] spinning funk, soul, hip-hop, '80s boogie, jazz, Latin, [illegible] Afrobeat, [illegible], 10 p.m., free

TUESDAY 24

EAST BAY

[illegible] Night plus line dancing, Club 1220, 9 p.m., free

DJ [illegible] The Legionnaire Saloon, 10 p.m., free

DJ [illegible] spinning soul, indie, punk, new wave, & more, The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

DJ Night DJs spinning [illegible] pop, [illegible] hip-hop rock, [illegible] urban hip-hop, [illegible] Restaurant, 9:30 p.m. free

DJ [illegible] spinning punk, [illegible] Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning funk, reggae, afrobeat, [illegible] beat, dirty south, [illegible] '90's hip-hop, salsa and [illegible] The Layover, 10 p.m. free

[illegible] [illegible] & Lounge, 9 p.m. [illegible]

[illegible] Weekend traditional [illegible] music, The Legionnaire Saloon, 7 p.m., free

[illegible] DJ [illegible] and rotating guests spinning reggae, [illegible] and [illegible] rhythms, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] DJs [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, [illegible] before 11 p.m. $5, 10 p.m. $5

DJs [illegible] spinning [illegible], underground hip-hop, [illegible] grooves, [illegible] 9 p.m. free

[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] spin funky soul, girl groups, [illegible], [illegible] rock, [illegible] & more, The [illegible], 10 p.m. free

[illegible] [illegible] 9:30 p.m. free

[illegible] drum 'n' bass w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] 9 p.m. $5

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], MCD, & guests spinning the '90s and early '00s hip-hop, The [illegible], 10 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] resident 10 p.m., free before 11:30pm $8 before 11pm $10 after

WEDNESDAY 25

EAST BAY

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and guests spinning [illegible] for girls who [illegible], White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $5-$7

The [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] hip-hop guests, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

The [illegible] w/ DJs spinning hip-hop, Club 21, 9 p.m., $10-$15

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], The Layover, 6 p.m. free

[illegible] Latin [illegible] night w/ [illegible], 7 p.m., $10-$15

[illegible] resident DJs [illegible] and guests spin [illegible] deep house, broken beat, [illegible], reggae, [illegible] rhythms, [illegible] & Lounge, 9 p.m. free

[illegible] DJ [illegible] spins everything from [illegible] to punk [illegible], the '60s through the '90s, [illegible] Saloon, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

[illegible] Sessions spinning [illegible] guests [illegible], hip-hop, and R&B, [illegible] & Lounge, 9 p.m., $5 before 10, $10 after

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] [illegible] psych [illegible] club, Edinburgh Castle, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] resident DJs [illegible] 9 p.m., $7

[illegible] Wednesday DJs [illegible], [illegible] spin classics, hip-hop, [illegible] funk, & soul, [illegible], 10 p.m., $5

[illegible] w/ [illegible] 10:31, DNA Lounge, 9 p.m., $17.50, $20

[illegible] [illegible] music, Mighty, 10 p.m., $5 before 10:30pm, $10 after

EAST BAY INDIE

SCREAM

FILM FESTIVAL

A horror short film competition brought to you by EAST BAY EXPRESS

—CALLING ALL FILM MAKERS—

This Fall the EAST BAY EXPRESS celebrates the darker side of independent cinema in a vibrant display of horror, macabre and exploitation shorts with the east bay indie scream festival. Film submissions should be genre specific and under 10 minutes, including credits. All independent filmmakers with pieces under two years old are welcome to submit their works for consideration.

THE SCREAM FESTIVAL will take place at
The New Parish in Oakland
OCTOBER 17, 2013

Festive film screening & awards
Costume contest
Red carpet
Live horror-related performances
Hosted by Jamie DeWolf & Sidney Sin

There will be a cash prizes of $1000 for the Judges Choice and $500 for the Audience Favorite. Winning film teams will also walk away with bundles of devilish goodies from local retailers.

Film Submission Deadline is
OCTOBER 2ND, 2013.
To register and get details, go to
EastBayExpress.com/ScreamFest2013
— or email
Promotions@EastBayExpress.com

EAST BAY EXPRESS

TOURETTES WITHOUT REGRETS

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DAVID HASKELL GROUP 8PM
WEDNESDAY SEPT 18

SELECTOR: DJ LADY RYAN 9PM
THURSDAY SEPT 19
Known for her eclectic taste in tunes and spellbinding voice, from Jazz to House, the flow of distinctive sounds she so gracefully sets beside one another make for a brilliant movement within the crowd. LadyRyan.com

EAST BAY BRASS BAND 8PM
FRIDAY SEPT 20
A New Orleans style brass band that specializes in mash-ups of popular artists. Our brass mashups will pleasantly tangle your mind as your feet succumb to the East Bay beat.

THE JUMP OFF W/ DJ DEEVICE 9PM
Local DJ got the weekend started early!

DIRTY CELLO 8PM
SATURDAY SEPT 21
Dirty Cello presents a high-energy mix of soulful blues, swingin' gypsy jazz and wild Euro-gypsy dance tunes, having shared the stage with exceptional performers like Carlos Santana, Elvis Costello, Isaac Hayes, Joan Baez and many more. DirtyCello.com

AMERICANA UNPLUGGED:
BILL DAVIES & BOB BLANSHARD 4:30
SUNDAY SEPT 22

TUESDAY JAZZIDENCY
KURT IBRAK TRIO 8PM
TUESDAY SEPT 24

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SAVAGE LOVE

NOISE MAKERS

Dealing with loud neighbors, admissions of infidelity, and a crazy dude.

By Dan Savage

My question is one of etiquette. My lesbian wife and I live in an apartment. The noise pollution between flats can be pretty bad. Anyone who lives in the building is aware of this, and keeping noise down after certain hours is a common courtesy. I wouldn't play loud music after a certain hour, or let doors slam, or break out the drum kit. If any of these things happen after around 11:30 p.m. on a work night, I don't think I'd feel any qualms about going around to whoever is being inconsiderate and asking them to keep it down. But what about noisy sex? My neighbor's girlfriend is pretty loud during sex. If the racket were being made, say, before midnight, I could bear it. It would be gross, because I think he's slimy and he has a terrible hipster mustache, but I wouldn't be writing to you. I'd just cope as best I could and try to fall back asleep. But what about sex at crazy o'clock? Is it okay for us to pound on the wall and ask them to keep it down? What's your opinion?

Sleepy Lesbians Next Door

I happen to agree with Robert Lopez, Jeff Marx, and Jeff Whitty, creators of the Tony Award-winning musical Avenue Q, on the subject of apartment living, thin walls, and noisy sex: "You can be as loud as the hell you want when you're makin' love." Or in this instance, your creepy neighbor with the hipster mustache and his girlfriend can be as loud as the hell they want when they're makin' love. But you and your wife — their annoyed neighbors — can be as loud as the hell you want when they're making love. You can pound on the walls, SLND, make your displeasure known, scream and yell, etc.

And even if your neighbors don't take the fucking hint and quiet the fucking the fuck down, SLND, the noise you make may bring their annoyingly loud sex to a quicker end. The females of certain species — including our own — get loud during sex, i.e., scream and yell, because it helps the males of their species climax more quickly. (Female copulatory vocalization. It is a real thing with its very own Wikipedia page. Look it up.) If his girlfriend's vocalizations are turning your inconsiderate mustachioed hipster neighbor on, the screams of his two lesbian neighbors could push him past the point of no return.

I was in a monogamous relationship with a woman for two years. We split up and remained platonic friends. Months later, on a drunken night, we had sex. At that point, neither of us had slept with anyone else. After we had sex that night, the sexual lion was out, and I slept with two others (using protection, of course). Now my ex-girlfriend and I may get back together, and she has asked the question. Have I slept with anyone else? So far I have managed to avoid answering and yes, we are currently sleeping together. Do I tell her?

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The failure to immediately answer certain questions in the negative is equal to answering in the affirmative. Examples: "Are you gay?" "Did you fuck my sister?" "Is that your butt plug?" Any attempt to avoid answering these questions — issuing a nondenial denial ("Me? Gay? Why would you think that?"), requesting an unnecessary clarification ("You mean your sister?"), stalling for time ("Can we talk about this later?") — serves as confirmation that, yes, you are gay and/or fucking the sister and/or the owner of that butt plug.

"Have you slept with anyone else?" is right up there with "Did you gay fuck my sister with that butt plug?" Your attempt to "avoid answering" the question was the answer to the question. Yes, you fucked other people.

Straight male here. I took a writing course, and some of us students created a writing group. One of the guys in the group is gay, and a while ago, he confessed that he had very strong feelings for me. I didn't have a problem with this, but I told him that I wasn't into guys. The other day he sent me an e-mail telling me there was something he wanted to discuss. We met for dinner, and he told me that despite the fact that I claimed to be straight, he felt like I had been sending him messages to indicate my interest in him. He said that this was cruel and that he felt like I was teasing him. When I asked him for examples, he told me that when we had originally been in class together, he noticed that I had started to dress like him, and that this was sometimes a way closeted men showed interest in other men. He mentioned that one week he had worn a red sweater and the following week I had worn a red T-shirt. He also said that he felt like the stories I had been workshopping in our group were secretly about him. I admit I'm not the stereotypical straight guy — I have good taste in shoes and I like art — but I know what I'm into and who I want to get naked with. I never showed any interest in this guy. I never led him on; this entire thing has taken place purely in his head. I told him all this and now he says he is hurt and doesn't want to see me at the group. He suggested that we share the group: alternating meetings, but I refused. We're both adults who should have the emotional maturity to handle this. Am I being too harsh?

Pulled Into Drama

Closeted gay men don't use colored T-shirts to send messages to out gay men. They use Craigslist.

Look, PID, Jeffrey Dahmer — aka the Milwaukee Cannibal — ate a friend of mine. By which I mean to say: Some gay people are insane. I'm not saying you're in danger of being drugged, raped, butchered, and eaten by this guy from your writing group. But the guy is — if your account is accurate — more than a little unpleasant and a whole lot batshit. Confide in some friends in your writing group about what's going on and be prepared to leave the group and/or form a breakaway group if Mr. Red Sweater continues to detect clues in your wardrobe. Also: Do not spend any more time alone with this guy. Someone who would accuse you of making super-secret passes at him via red T-shirts is capable of making baseless accusations about much worse. ●

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